

China

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THE JINHUA-WENZHOU
RAILWAY IN
ZHEJIANG**

**SÊRTAR:
A BUDDHIST LAND OF
3,000 WOMEN**

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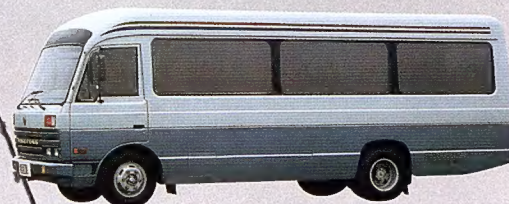
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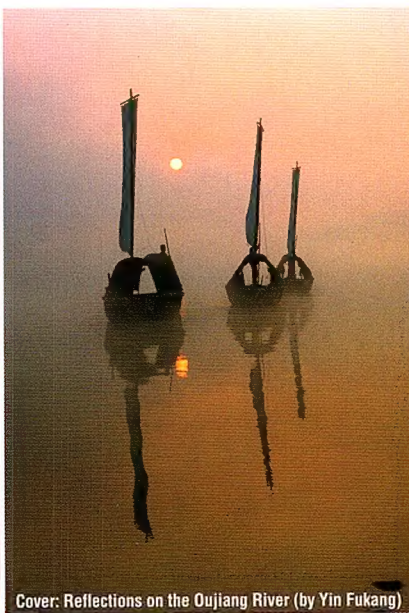
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Photos & article by Tian Jin

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Photos & article by Huang Yanhong

Of the 5,000 students at the Larong Pancavidya Institute in western Sichuan, on the eastern edge of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, 3,000 are women. More than 500 Han students have also enrolled in this seminary to study the Tibetan language and Tibetan Buddhism. Our reporter tells the true stories as well as the insoluble puzzles amidst the sound of scripture chanting and Buddhist music.

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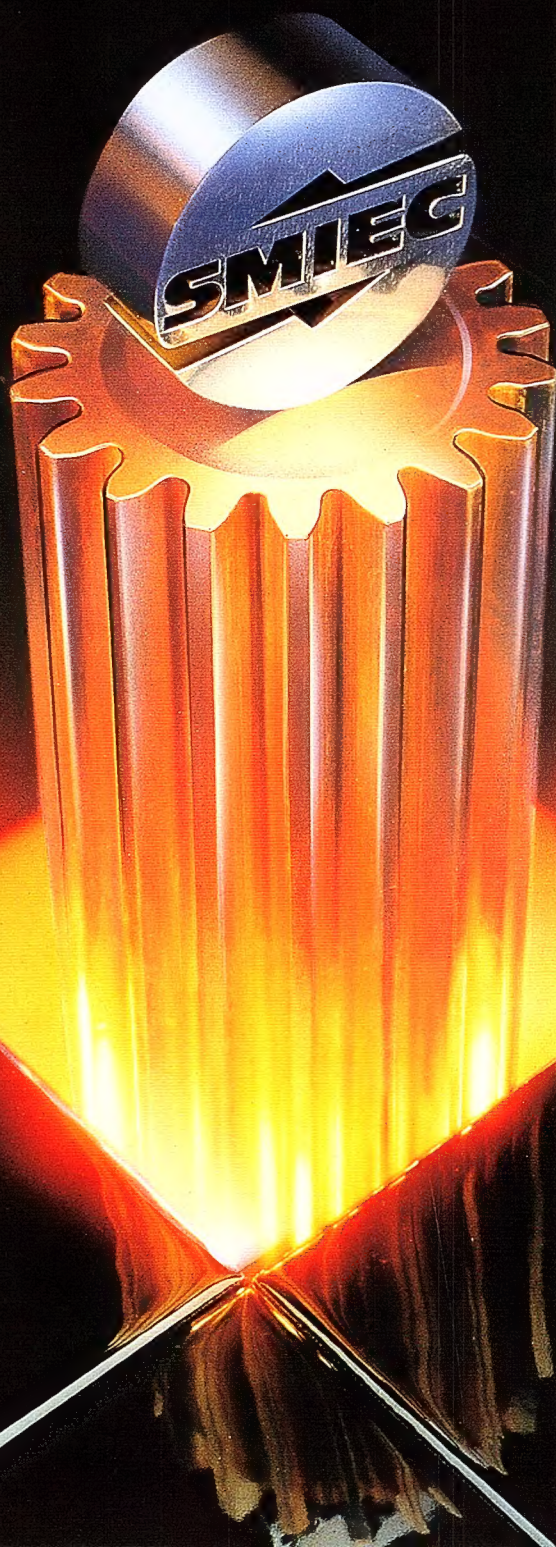
Photos & article by You Xiang

There are four scenic mountains in Henan, Shiren Mountain, Chaya Mountain, Yuntai Mountain and Yawu Mountain. They may not be as famous as the Longmen Grottoes and the Shaolin Temple in the province, but each of them has a different charming character, and is worth a visit.

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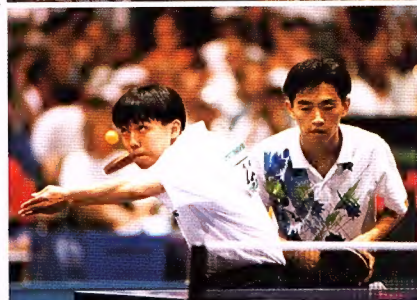
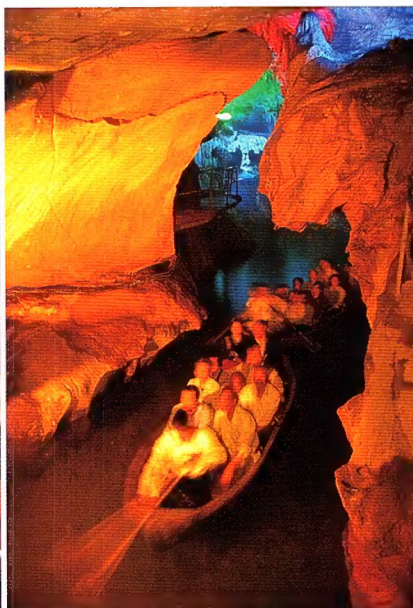
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FROM THE EDITOR

Ever thought of going for a rail journey in the pleasant summer breeze? Though less efficient than flying by plane, travelling by train offers you plenty of time to enjoy the scenery on the way, which will make your trip an extraordinarily unforgettable and rewarding one.

In China, there are abundant opportunities for train tours. The newly operated Jinhua-Wenzhou Railway in the eastern province of Zhejiang is our recommendation. This railway of 250 kilometres creates an enticing travel route featuring numerous scenic spots and cultural relics of both national and provincial level. Double-Dragon Cave, Tianning Temple, Fangyan Mountain, Nanming Mountain, Stone-Gate Cave, Nanxi River, Yandang Mountain... Mother Nature's creation is completed by humanity's heritage to produce a marvellous picture. Just spare one week's time to feast your eyes on the area's breath-holding charm. You will definitely fall in love with this exceptional travel experience.

Mountains scattered over the vast territory of China are either renowned for their immortals' myths or natural beauty. The four mountains in Central China's Henan Province, Shiren, Chaya, Yuntai and Yawu, which are lesser known to travellers, belong to the latter. Our reporter will bring you to Henan Province to unveil the splendour of these mountains.

A trip to the sacred Larong Pancavidya Institute in Sêrtar, Sichuan, is a completely different experience. The academy has more than 5,000 students, of whom more than half are females. You will be interested in knowing why they have chosen to study Buddhism here. Mystical legends and joyous festivals also add colour to this piece of holy land.

We will also amaze you with the Buddhist statuary recently unearthed from the ruins of Longxing Temple in Qingzhou City, Shandong. Meticulously crafted and brilliantly coloured, the sculptures of more than 1,000 years old have stunned archaeology experts all over the world. The valuable cultural relics provide important materials for the study of Buddhism and Buddhist arts in China.

Photo by Shi Leyan

Diving for Relics

Not long ago, an excavation team found over 1,500 cultural relics in the South China Sea, including pottery, ironware and a 500-kilogram stone anchor dating back 1,000 years. In 1990, a group of Chinese archaeologists, together with their Australian counterparts, spotted another sunken ship of the Song or Yuan dynasties (960-1368).

Since 1989, groups of underwater archaeologists have been searching the coastal waters near Guangdong, Fujian, Shandong and Liaoning provinces and have discovered several dozen sunken ships as well as relics which were part of the ships' cargoes. Historical records show that roughly 3,000 sunken ships remain buried in Chinese waters.

China's Third Largest Island to Link with Shanghai

As more and more travellers to Shanghai visit Chongming Island as well, the city government of Shanghai is considering building a bridge or tunnel to link China's largest city with its third largest island.

The 1,000-square-kilometre island has one of the largest forests in East China, in addition to a traditional habitat for 130 varieties of birds at its east tip. In 1998, over one million Chinese and overseas tourists visited the island, most of them having been attracted by the huge forest park and the bird-watching area.

Private Museum, Kunming

A private art museum, which is believed to be the largest of its kind in China, opened recently in Kunming, capital of Southwest China's Yunnan Province. The Hanrongxuan Art Museum occupies a total floor space of over 10,000 square metres. Its five halls exhibit paintings of well-known Yunnan artists, rare ancient porcelain and pottery, colourful garments of local ethnic groups and fossils. Luo Huanxin, a collector and the owner of the museum, invested US\$4.3 million in this museum.



Master Paintings Collection, Hong Kong

Central District in Hong Kong, where major banks, securities and shopping centres are concentrated, impresses visitors as well as the local residents as a "Wall Street in Asia". Now, squeezed in among these skyscrapers, The Master Paintings, a private gallery, has added a cultural touch to this commercial area.

Mr. Eric Smulders, owner of the gallery, has been living in Hong Kong for over 20 years. His great grandfather A. F. Smulders, one of Holland's top industrialists, acquired a vast collection of masterpieces mainly by Dutch artists. The love of fine

art has been a family tradition, and the later generations continued and expanded the collection. Displayed in the gallery are European paintings from the 17th century to the 20th century, sculptures, classic Chinese furniture and Asian carpets of hundreds of years.



American Goodwill Ambassadors, Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Tourist Association (HKTA) inaugurated 205 enthusiastic American citizens as Goodwill Ambassadors, whose mandate is to actively support Hong Kong in-bound tourism. The Goodwill Ambassador programme enlists long-staying Hong Kong-based foreign residents to promote the territory during their travels through personal contact and speaking opportunities with international organisations, as well as business or social networks to encourage potential visitors from around the globe to visit Hong Kong.

Beijing Changing Taxi Rates

Travellers in Beijing can now have cheaper taxi services, as the municipal government has lowered the fare rates for all types of taxis. The fare of 2.5 yuan per kilometre will go down to 2 yuan, with a flagfall price of 10 yuan for the first four kilometres; two yuan and 1.8 yuan fares will go down to 1.6 yuan, also with a flagfall charge of 10 yuan for the first four kilometres; and the 1.6 and 1.4 yuan fares will go down to 1.2 yuan, with a flagfall price of 10 yuan for the first 5 kilometres. *Miandi*, the mini-vans, will be eventually phased out. Good service and order in the business are reiterated.

Hong Kong's Exhibition Industry Thriving

A survey commissioned by the Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Organisers' and Suppliers' Association (HKECOSA) has shown the local exhibition industry enjoying continued strong growth in 1998, in the face of economic gloom in the region and Hong Kong. According to HKECOSA Chairman, Michael Duck, the figures show a robust and healthy exhibition industry, making a significant contribution to Hong Kong's economy as well as stimulating business in the Asia Pacific region.

The survey, carried out by the Hong Kong Convention Exhibition Centre (Management) Ltd. on HKECOSA's behalf, covered the 82 exhibitions over 2,000 square metres in size held during 1998. Information collected showed that approximate total stand revenues grew by well over 18 percent. At the same time the number of exhibiting companies grew by more than 16 percent. These figures illustrate Hong Kong's attraction as an international exhibition base.

Contemporary British Teapots Exhibition, Hong Kong

Held at the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, this exhibition features 81 teapots made by British potters of the 20th century. They come from the Crafts Collection of The British Council. The exhibition is both a survey and a celebration of the craft of British pottery. Included in the exhibits are works by the Leach Pottery, and famous potters, which demonstrate different production media, techniques and designs. During the opening time from June 10 to August 29, an art lecture and a tea demonstration programme, as well as a ceramics workshop on the making of teapots, are to be organised.

The exhibition is jointly presented by the Provisional Urban Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and The British Council, and sponsored by Tetley GB Limited.



High-Speed Paging: Potential Market

It is expected that China's FLEX high-speed paging service will see rapid development. Since 1996, when the former Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications signed the agreement on FLEX paging, China Telecom and China Unicom have both made FLEX high-speed paging an important item of mobile telecommunications. So far, more than 20 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities have set up systems and begun to register users. At present, the country's production capacity of FLEX pagers is relatively low, and supply falls behind demand. Therefore, the Chinese government is encouraging increased production. Investors have recognised that it is especially ideal to develop pager production in the interior areas where labour and other resources are cheaper.

Bird-Song Garden in Wuhan

A birds' paradise was recently opened to the public in Wuhan, capital of Central China's Hubei Province. Located by the East Lake in Wuchang (one of the triple towns of Wuhan), the Bird-Song Garden has a huge net covering an area of 20,000 square metres. More than 3,000 birds of 100 species are bred there.

Railway Network Crossing Bohai Sea

China is to invest US\$3.6 billion to construct a railway network which will link the North East with East China by a short cut through the Bohai Sea. The project will connect the Harbin-Dalian Railway with a 170-kilometre-long ferry passage from Dalian of Liaoning Province to Yantai in Shandong, and extend further south to Changxing in Zhejiang Province.

The entire project is jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Railways and the provinces of Shandong and Liaoning. Construction will start at the end of this year and is expected to be completed in the early years of next century.



JAS Inaugurates Osaka-Kunming Air Route

Japan Air System (JAS) has inaugurated the Osaka-Kunming air route, so that Japanese tourists can take part in the '99 International Horticultural Expo in Kunming open from May to October. This direct air route has flights every Wednesday and Sunday and is served by A300-600 aircraft. The flight takes over three hours. Recently, JAS inaugurated the Osaka-Hong Kong and Osaka-Guangzhou air routes. Osaka-Xi'an and Tokyo-Kunming air routes will start operation in the near future.



Event/Taipei **Sanxingdui Relics on Show in Taipei**

Since March 27, a range of cultural relics unearthed from the ruins of

Sanxingdui in Guanghan, Sichuan, have been on display in the Palace Museum, Taipei. The exhibition will last till the end of June.

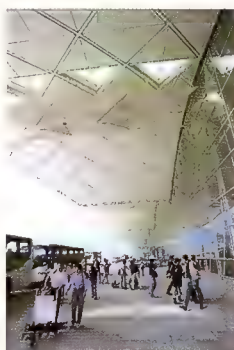
Jointly organised by Taiwan Pacific Cultural Fund and *China Times*, the exhibition features 198 groups, a total of 259 pieces of relics provided by Sanxingdui Museum. This is the first time that Sanxingdui relics are on display in Taiwan.



News/Hong Kong **Hong Kong International Airport — a Top 20th-Century Construction**

The core construction project of the new Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok was selected one of the Top 10 Construction Achievements of the 20th Century by an international panel of influential executives and editors in the industry. The award presentation ceremony was held in a premier exposition for construction, aggregates and ready mixed concrete industries, which attracted more than 1,850 exhibitors from 110 countries, and 100,000 visitors.

The other winning projects are Panama Canal (Panama), Aswan High Dam (Egypt), Chunnel (United Kingdom/France), Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways (United States), Empire State Building (United States), Golden Gate Bridge (United States), Hoover/Boulder Dam (United States), Sydney Opera House (Australia), and World Trade Centre (United States).



Transport/Sichuan **Sichuan to Improve Its Transportation Conditions**

Southwest China's Sichuan plans to invest over 10 billion yuan this year in infrastructure construction, building railroads, highways and airports to improve its transportation conditions.

Sichuan's investment in transportation in 1998 increased by 50 percent over the previous year. The key construction projects are going on smoothly, and some new projects have been initiated. Railroad construction is responsible for most of the costs.

Sichuan's is the main target for railroad construction in southwest China. The electrification of the southern part of the Baoji-Chengdu double-track railway and the Chengdu-Kunming railway are the main targets for this year.

In highway construction, 12 billion yuan will be invested to quicken the construction speed of expressways in Sichuan to ensure that there is 1,000 kilometres of expressway in the province by the year 2000. Five highways with a total length of 246 kilometres are also planned to be constructed to form an expressway network. It is estimated that there will be 16 expressway projects in Sichuan this year, totalling 1,136 kilometres.

As for airport construction, the Shuangliu Airport in Chengdu is a key project, and the Mianyang Airport and Guangyuan Airport will continue construction work. The surrounding area of the Shuangliu Airport will be completed by the end of the year as well. In addition, Sichuan Airlines has invested 150 million yuan in building a ground service building and a control centre.



News/Jinan **The Extension of Baotu Springs Park in Jinan City**

This year, Jinan City in Shandong Province will invest 70 million yuan to enlarge the Baotu Springs Park. The construction work is part of the "Jinan Five-year Renovation Project" launched by the provincial government of Shandong. After the extension, the park will take up an area of 11 hectares, 3.5 hectares larger than its original.

Baotu Springs is one of the three representing scenic spots in Jinan, and is ranked first among the 72 springs in the city. The extension project aims to highlight Jinan as a city of springs. About 30 springs such as Weiping Spring, Dukang Spring, and Dengzhou Spring will be renovated to link up with the Baotu Springs Park. Besides, the Li Qingzhao Memorial Hall in the park will be enlarged, and the Thousand Bamboo Park will be included in Baotu Springs Park.



Relics/Beijing



Yunju Temple — the Dunhuang of Beijing

At the foot of Mount Baidai in Fangshan District in southwestern Beijing, there is a temple with a history of over 1,000 years. It is Yunju Temple, one of the most popular tourist attractions in Beijing. The temple has a special environment and beautiful scenery, and is a treasure of Buddhist culture.

Yunju Temple is 70 kilometres from downtown Beijing, covering an area of 60,000 square metres. It includes the Scripture Cave on Mount Shijing (Stone Scriptures) and pagodas of the Tang (618-907) and Liao (916-1125) dynasties. The temple was built in the late Sui (581-618) and early Tang dynasties. Following renovations in various dynasties, it now has five courtyards and six halls. On both sides there are wing halls, temporary residences for emperors and empresses, and living quarters for monks. The two pagodas stand south and north of the temple facing each other.

There are Buddhist stone sculptures, paper scriptures, and woodblock scriptures preserved here. The stone scriptures began to be engraved in 605, and the project lasted six dynasties — some 1,039 years. There are 1,122 titles in 3,572 volumes, totalling 14,278 blocks. This precious cultural heritage gives the temple the nickname "The Dunhuang of Beijing".

Mount Shijing is 450 metres high. Halfway up, there are nine caves housing 4,196 stone blocks carved with Buddhist scriptures. Lei Yin Cave is as spacious as a great hall. As there are 1,056 Buddhist images carved on the four stone pillars in the cave, they are called the Thousand-Buddha Pillars. Another wonder is the two Buddhist relics in the shape of pearls left after the cremation of Sakyamuni, unearthed in 1981 from Lei Yin Cave.

To get there, take Bus No. 917 at Tianqiao, or Tourist Bus No. 10 at Qianmen (Saturdays and Sundays), or take a train at the Beijing South Station.



Shopping/Beijing



Hongqiao Market — a World of Pearls

Hongqiao Market is the place to buy pearls in Beijing. It boasts a large variety of pearls, high quality and low prices, and good service.

Located in the southern part of the capital, Hongqiao Market is near the Temple of Heaven. It has an area of more than 15,000 square metres. In addition to pearls, it offers aquatic products, goods for daily use, clothing, domestic appliances, handicraft articles and folklore items. About 2,500 people manage nearly 1,000 stalls here.



The third floor has saltwater and freshwater pearls, both natural and cultivated, white pearls, black pearls, mottled pearls, ornamental pearls, medicinal pearls, pearl powder, and so on. It also offers jade, antiques, calligraphy and painting.

The pearls are classified strictly into high, middle and low grades according to their origin, colour, size, and level of roundness and smoothness. Prices range from a few dozen to several thousand yuan. Customers can select at will and bargain with the stall keepers. All kinds of necklaces and earrings can be made here to customers' specifications.

The market has been visited by celebrities like the Swedish Prime Minister, the US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Mrs. Margaret Thatcher.

Scenic Spot/Quanzhou



The New Look of the Cultural Relics of Quanzhou, Fujian

When touring in the ancient city of Quanzhou, you would not miss spots like the Islamic Cemetery, Luoyang Bridge, Anping Bridge and Jiuri Mountain, all precious cultural relics of national level under state protection. From now on, no-one need feel great sorrow over the dilapidation of these treasures, because large scale renovation works are taking place to maintain these monuments.

Quanzhou is among one of the first few historical and cultural cities of China, having a total of 504 units of cultural heritage under protection, of which 12 are of national level, and 37 of provincial level.

The grand renovation, started in 1998, is funded by various departments of both municipal and county level. Its aims are to reverse the deterioration of national treasures, afforest the surroundings, remove illegal construction, and widen the major roads connecting these spots.



Touring Along the Jinhua–Wenzhou Railway Line

Photos & article by Tian Jin





The recently-completed Jinhua-Wenzhou Railway, totalling 250 kilometres, offers tourists a wide variety of scenic spots and historical places of state and provincial level along it. These include the Double-Dragon Cave, Shuxi Ancient Wooden Bridge, Fangyan's Five Peaks, Immortal Capital, Mount Nanming, Stone-Gate Cave, Nanxi River, Mount Yandang, and many other scenic landscapes, mountains, villages and fields. It takes at least seven to eight days to cover the whole route.

Jinhua

Home of Immortal Huang

From Jinhua Railway Station, I took a bus to the famous Shuanglong (Double-Dragon) Scenic Area at the foot of Mount

Jinhua. The wonder here is that there are caves hidden inside this cave, and the only way to enter is by boat. The entrance is very small but the cave is very large and spacious inside. Stalactites glitter brilliantly in the yellowish lights, while

streams flow over the stones. On the cliff above the streams is a cave shaped like a pot called Binghu (Ice Pot). Water cascades down its walls with thunderous sounds, creating mist amid coldness. Nearby are the Chaozhen (Facing-Virtue) Cave, where it is said that Huang Daxian (Immortal Huang) cultivated himself, and the newly-discovered Xianpu (Immortal Waterfall) Cave. South of the Double-Dragon Cave is the Taoist Jinhua Temple where, according to legend, Immortal Huang attained enlightenment and became an immortal.

At the Liudong (Six-cave) Mountain in Lanxi, northwest of



Tips for Travelling Jinhua

- **Transport:** For the Double-Dragon Cave, get on a bus at the Railway Station Square. It is a 15-kilometre trip. Minibuses go from Jinhua South Bus Station to Lanxi, from where an 8-kilometre bus ride takes you to Six-cave Mountain.
- **Accommodation:** There are a few three-star hotels in Jinhua, such as Jinhua Hotel, Jinhua International Trade Building, Oriental Grand Hotel. Their standard room rates range from 240 to 317 yuan.
- **Shopping:** Jinhua Ham, made from pigs' hind legs. There are special shops in Jinhua. The best is produced at Shangjiang Village in Dongyang City. Lanxi Dog Ham, made from dog legs, is regarded as the best in the Jinhua Ham series. There are special shops in Lanxi City.
- **Delicacies:** Jinhua Ham dishes, Jinhua Soft Cake, finger-like citron and Buddha-Hand Wine.

Double-Dragon Cave, the Yongxue (Snow-Surging) Cave, one of the six caves, has a long underground river formed by springs. It is connected to the Yulu (Jade-Dew) Cave which has many stalactites in wonderful shapes. One kilometre from the Jade-Dew Cave is the Zixia (Purple-Glow) Cave with its streams and stalactites, where, according to legend, Immortal Huang studied and meditated.

1. It's a different experience travelling by train.
2. At the foot of Mount Jinhua
3. Former residence of one of the leaders of the Heavenly Kingdom Uprising (by Wang Miao)
4. Boating in the Yongxue Cave
5. Jinhua Temple (by Xie Guanghui)





Native Home of Huang Daxian

The ruins of Baoji Temple, also called Chisong Palace, in Chisong Township are an interesting reminder of Immortal Huang. Opposite is Woyang (Lying Sheep) Hill, where the immortal turned rocks into live sheep. Behind it is Liandan (Pill-Making) Hill, said to be where the immortal and his brother made immortality pills.

The story of Immortal Huang is actually the story of two brothers. Huang Chuping was born on the 13th of the eighth lunar month in 328 in Xianqiao Village, 10 kilometres from Jinhua, during the Eastern Jin Dynasty. At the age of 15, Huang Chuping was grazing sheep in the mountains when he met the Taoist immortal Chi Song Zi who instructed him to study Taoism in the mountains. As a result, Chuping acquired the magic power to turn sheep into rocks and rocks into sheep. His elder brother, by 10 years, Huang Chuqi, finally found him after 40 years. Seeing that he had already become a Taoist immortal, the elder brother took him as his teacher and they studied and practised Taoist doctrines together. They survived on herbal roots and pine nuts, and lived in a stone cave making immortality pills. Legend says they lived this way for 10,000 days, and by then they could fly and become invisible.

Xianqiao Village was divided by the Chisong Stream. In the eastern part, there were many young men, and in the western part, many young girls. But an evil monster dragon in the stream would not allow a bridge to be built, preventing any dating. One year, on the eighth day of the eighth lunar month, when the monster started his evil tricks again, the Huang brothers killed it and had a bridge built. Local people called it Erxian (Two Immortals) Bridge. They also built the Two Lords Huang Memorial Hall at one end of the bridge.

Having done many good deeds, the brothers went back to the mountains until one day they flew to heaven, with Huang Chuping riding a crane and Huang Chuqi riding a deer. At their departure point, Chisong Palace was built, to enshrine and worship them, as well as their teacher Chi Song Zi.



Wuyi

Ming-dynasty Villages



There is an ancient village called Yuyuan, 40 kilometres southwest of Wuyi, whose village terrain resembles the Diagram of the Supreme Ultimate (Yin and Yang). Since this discovery many scholars and specialists came to the village, and made new discoveries.

This 600-year-old village was designed by Liu Bowen, tutor of the Ming-dynasty Emperor Taizu. From the newly built Viewing Platform on the West Hill, you can see a small stream winds through the village in the shape of an "S", cutting the rice field into two parts — one Yin and the other Yang — each with a piece of dry land at its "eye", where bushes used to grow. The tails of the Yin and Yang fit into the hill slopes on the sides, forming the "ring" of the diagram, and thus bathing Yuyuan Village in an "auspicious mist".

The village houses are laid out according to the constellations. Most interestingly, the Yu Clan Temple falls right in the ladle of the Big Dipper.

It is believed that this unique design has awarded Yuyuan Village fine weather and good fortune. The village has nurtured many scholars and officials, particularly in the Ming and Qing dynasties. In the village there are hundreds of halls, towers, pavilions, courtyards and other ancient architectural structures with exquisite wooden, stone and brick carvings of high cultural value. In Yuyuan, every house seems to be a treasure house awaiting for further exploration.

I went on to another ancient village, Guodong. Most of the villagers are of the He Clan, and of its many ancient buildings, the He Clan Temple is the best preserved. The temple gate is guarded by two door gods with

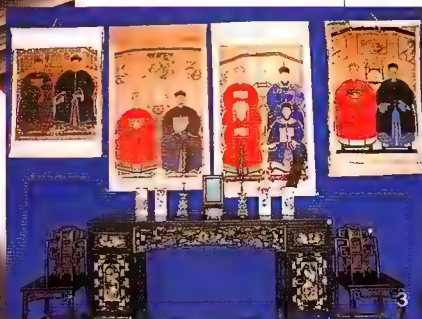


mighty looks; an ancient theatre stage displays historical items. Nearly 100 inscribed horizontal boards demonstrate the He family's past glory. Coffins in the rear hall and antiques in the side halls display local customs.

Tips for Travelling Wuyi

- **Transport:** Both trains and buses are available between Jinhua and Wuyi. Public buses go from the bus stop opposite the Wuyi County Bus Station to Yuyuan Village, 20 kilometres away. Buses go to Guodong, 10 kilometres from Wuyi, from the station at the southern end of Wenquan Bridge; buses run from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Accommodation:** Wuyi Hotel, in the county town, has standard rooms at 120 yuan. In Yuyuan, overnight lodgings include Dongzhu Temple Inn (the best!), the village hostel and ancient residences. Guodong offers ancient houses with carved wooden beds for 10 yuan per bed; contact the ticket office at the village entrance.
- **Scenic spots:** Wuyi has the provincial-level Longtan-Dacaikou-Guodong Scenic Area, with deep pools, steep valleys, strange peaks and perilous rocks. The Shuxi Ancient Wooden Bridge of the Song Dynasty is one of southern China's wonders
- **Shopping:** Xuan Lotus Seeds and Yunwu Tea grown on high mountains.
- **Delicacies:** Lotus seed dishes, bean-curd balls, taro soup, game, wild vegetables, and dishes cooked in bamboo tubes.

Jinhua Ham



1. A senior resident of Yuyuan Village
2. The inscription boards in the He Clan Temple are witnesses of the village's past glory.
3. Portraits of the ancestors of the Yuyuan natives
4. Jinhua hams, a famous local product (by Wang Miao)
5. The villagers maintain their traditional way of living.
6. The luxuriant primeval forest outside Guodong Village
7. One of the many ancient structures in Yuyuan Village

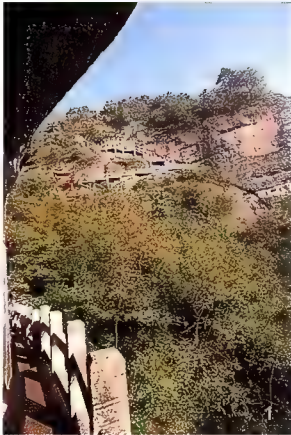
Jinhua Ham, golden yellow on the surface and rosy red inside, has a lingering delicious taste. For its unique colour, aroma, taste and form, Jinhua Ham is considered the best of Chinese preserved meat products. The product has won several prizes at international and domestic exhibitions.

In fact, Jinhua Ham is a general name for ham produced in Jinhua and surrounding area, such as Dongyang, Yiwu, Yongkang and Lanxi. The Jinhua region has a history of over 900 years in ham production. As early as in the Song Dynasty (960-1279), Jinhua Ham was already listed as a tribute to the court. Different processing methods and materials produce many different kinds of ham, such as Yunfang Jiang Ham, Bamboo-Leaf Smoked Ham, Fengtui Ham, Sugar-treated Ham, Sauce-treated Ham, and more. Among them, Yunfang Jiang Ham, produced in Shangjiang Village, Dongyang City, is the most famous due to its beautiful form, thin skin, rosy lean meat and crystal fat. Hence, the saying, "The best Jinhua Ham comes from Dongyang, while the best Dongyang ham comes from Shangjiang."



Yongkang

Fascinating Mount Fangyan



At dusk I went from Wuyi to Yongkang, where I caught the last minibus to Fangyan Scenic Area. The Wufeng Hotel, a true mountain villa, has its dining hall in a natural cave. At first light the next day, the mountain peaks dazzled with colour. In striking contrast with

the golden rice paddies, Fangyan's stone peaks looked magnificent.

The Five Peaks which project upward like a row of teeth form a semicircular valley below them. At the northern foot of the peaks, many large caves with wooden structures are hidden. Some have become cave restaurants; one such cave compound, the Five-Peak Studio, was where the Zhejiang provincial government had once set up its office to escape the air raids during World War II.

Walking out of the valley along a small stream and turning right, you see a green tea garden. To its left rises a lonely red cliff, the famous Mount Fangyan.

Up the stone steps from the valley I came to a mountain

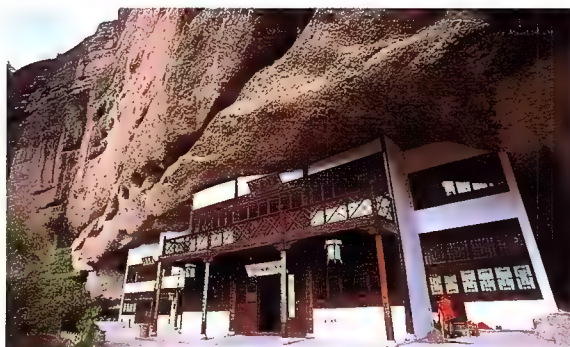


Tips for Travelling Yongkang

- **Transport:** Buses go from Yongkang bus station to Fangyan, 23 kilometres northeast of the city centre. At Yanxia Village, motor-tricycles take visitors to the Five Peaks; or alight at the Entrance Pavilion at Yanshang Village, from where you can climb Mount Fangyan.
- **Accommodation:** Wufeng Hotel has good facilities, and a standard room costs 240 yuan. Fangyan Hostel on the mountain and Fangyan Inn at the mountain's foot are lower-rated and less expensive.
- **Scenic spots:** The entrance fee to Five Peaks only is 3 yuan, to Fangyan Scenic Area, 20 yuan. Besides Mount Fangyan and Five Peaks, Fangyan Scenic Area also includes Shiguliao (Stone Drum Hut) and Lingshan Lake, which are both worth visiting.
- **Shopping:** Yongkang is known as the "Town of Hundred Handicrafts", and its representative traditional products are "Three Knives".
- **Delicacies:** Goose liver.

pass. On the other side swarms of people were trudging up, carrying parcels and red candles. They were all heading for the temple fair at Mount Fangyan, to worship Lord Hu, a god of a primitive belief who was considered very effectual.

Crossing the suspension bridge between the two cliffs, I ascended to the Heavenly Gate. Two halls stand in front: on the right was Guangci Temple built in early Tang Dynasty (618-907), and on the left is the Temple of Lord Hu built in Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127).



1. The thrilling plank road on the cliff of Mount Fangyan
2. The magnificent Five-Peak Studio built in a stone cave
3. Temple of Lord Hu is thronged with worshippers.
4. Stone stairs leading to the top of Mount Fangyan
5. Red sandstone forms fascinating scenes in the Mount Fangyan Scenic Area.



Jinyun

Capital of Immortals

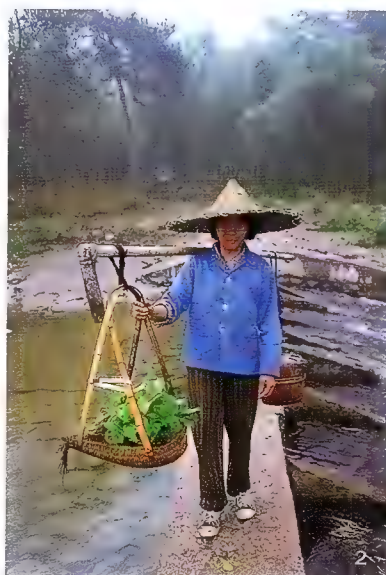


Outside Jinyun, the scenery changes dramatically. There is a clear stream murmuring along the highway, spanned with stone bridges. The further I drove towards the mountain, the more beautiful the scenes became, suggesting

I was close to Xiandu (Immortal Capital) Mountain, which, situated eight kilometres from the county town of Jinyun, has a long history as a Taoist land. In the setting sun, I passed attractive strange rocks and rugged peaks one after another.

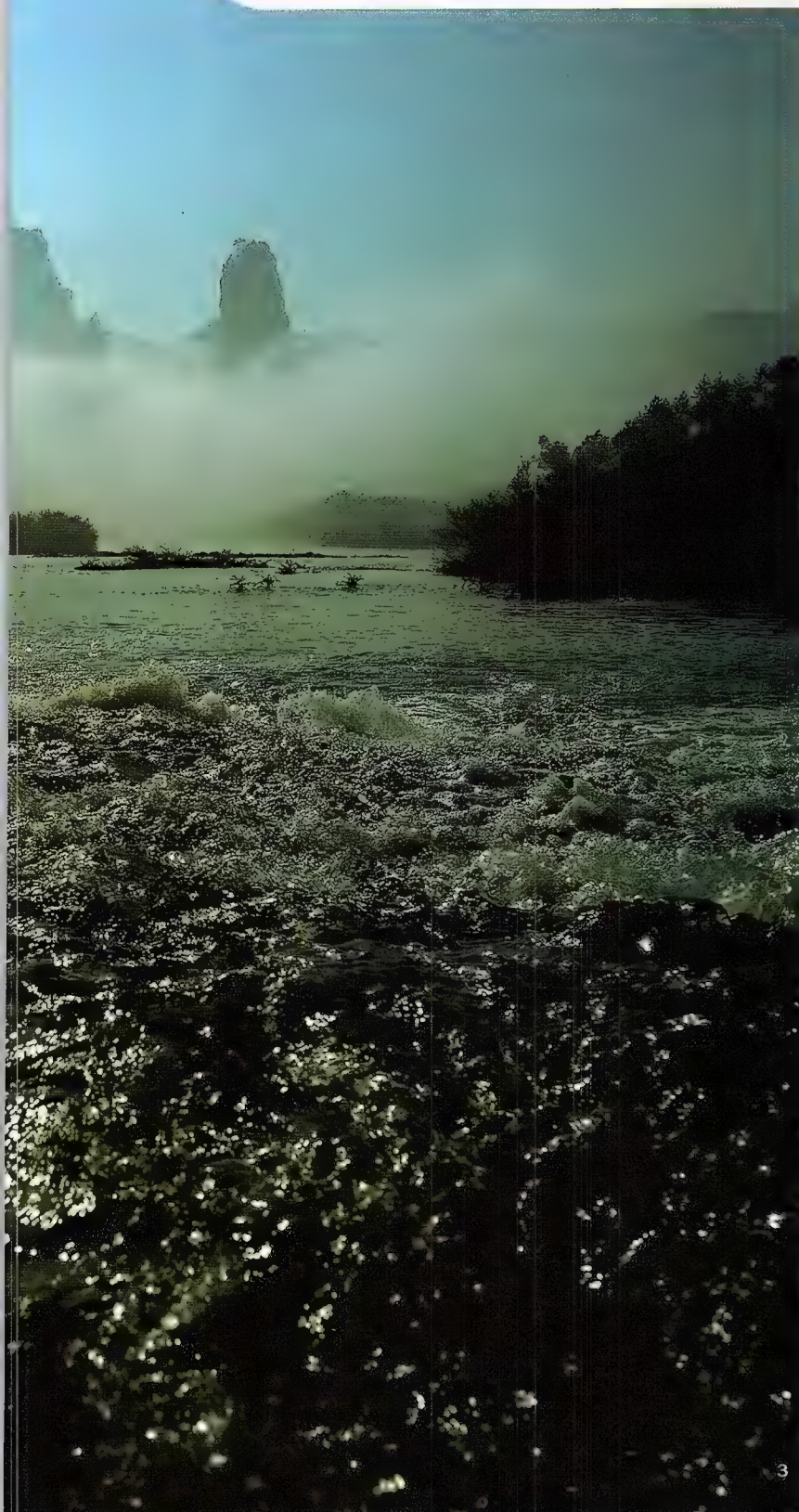
At the far end of the golden rice fields, Dinghu Peak rises like a giant bamboo shoot piercing the sky. Wandering on the grass shoal where reed flowers were blossoming, I thought that this peak seemed to have shot up from among these grasses. At its foot is a small "bamboo shoot" called Tongzi Peak; the strange mountain behind it is Mount Buxu. In the evening glow the peaks and rocks were red reflections in the waters. I walked up a winding path to Buxu Pavilion where I admired the ancient pines and cypresses on Dinghu Peak and the splendid rural scenes. Clouds were dyed red and mist gathered, eventually hiding everything into mystery. No wonder ancient people called this place Immortal Capital.

The next morning I went to view the peak from a mountain village. Clouds and mist rose from behind Mount Xushan, blurring Mount Dinghu's frame, making it very mysterious, like a celestial place.



Tips for Travelling Jinyun

- **Transport:** Take a minibus going from Jinyun to Huzhen and get down at the Immortal Capital; minibuses from Jinyun to Tiecheng will bring you to the foot of Mount Dinghu. In the scenic area there are motor-tricycles for hire; walking along the stream is more enjoyable.
- **Accommodation:** The scenic administrative centre offers food and lodging; a room costs about 120 yuan.
- **Scenic spots:** The Immortal Capital is a national scenic area, which consists of 12 scenic spots, including Dinghu Peak, Niweng Cave, Lesser Chibi, Aunt Rock, Furong Gorge, Yellow Dragon and Stone Gate. The main spots, Dinghu Peak, Lesser Chibi and Furong Gorge, need a day-long visit; to visit all of them, you need two to three days.
- **Delicacies:** Jinyun cake, meat broth, Haoxi turtle dishes.



1. Enjoying the scenery from a train
2. A woman farmer going to work early in the morning
3. Dinghu Peak veiled in mist (by Chu Xiaoqing)
4. Riding a bamboo raft to visit the Furong Gorge at Tiecheng

Tourist Trains in China

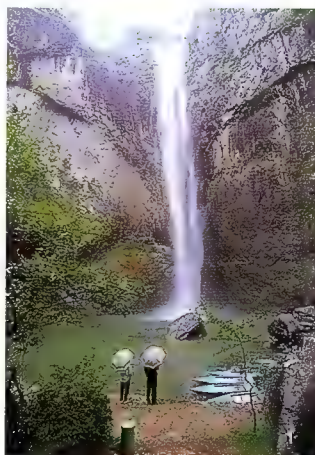
In China, many tourist trains now have been launched between the major cities or along routes where historic sites and scenic spots are concentrated. In general, these trains have the following characteristics: 1. Except for long-distance trips, they usually run during day time so as to offer tourists great views on the way and convenience to get on and off anytime. 2. Most trains have double-deck carriages and soft seats as well as wide and bright windows for better vision. 3. Trains stop at stations close to tourist resorts. 4. Carriages are air-conditioned. 5. Ticket prices are a little bit higher than that for express trains.

The following are some of the operating lines of such tourist trains:

Beijing to Tianjin, Shijiazhuang, Chengde, Taiyuan and Qinhuangdao;
Shanghai to Nanjing, Hangzhou, Mount Huangshan and Ningbo;
Suzhou to Shanghai and Nanchang;
Xi'an to Mount Huashan, Sanmenxia, Luoyang and Zhengzhou;
Harbin to Manzhouli, Heihe and Suifenhe;
Changchun to Jilin and Harbin;
Korla to Urumqi;
Lanzhou to Xining;
Shenzhen to Shaoguan;
Chengdu to Jianguan.

Lishui

Rocks Cut by Nature's Axe



Haoxi Stream passes Immortal Capital and empties into Daxi River at Lishui. On the Daxi River's southern bank stands Mount Nanming. The carvings on its cliffs and high ridges are worthwhile sights. Among these carvings are calligraphy

works by Ge Hong, an Eastern Jin-dynasty (317-420) Taoist and Mi Fu of the Northern Song Dynasty (1127-1279).

The East and West Rocks are located in Lishui's distant northwest suburbs. After winding your way up through rock

crevices, you reach a wide and flat space as large as a basketball court — you are on the top of East Rock. The Sun and Moon Pond at the entrance may have been dug out by the monks there.

Behind East Rock is a strange myriad of rocks and caves. Daopi (Knife-Cutting) Rock has a sharp, sheer edge seemingly cut by a knife. Chuanshen Cave is so spacious it could be a teahouse. Zhaidi (Narrow Corridor) is so narrow that only one person can pass at a time. Down at the rock's foot, Qingfeng Gorge is perilously narrow, and the cold wind blowing through it chills everyone. Within Shizi Gorge are several gullies; one of them is so securely hidden that you may get a shock when someone suddenly emerges from it. Dashiliang resembles a pavilion that provides sun and rain shelter. At the west entrance to the mountain lies a lake where reflections of the rocks and peaks remind people of the landscape of Wuyi Mountain in Fujian Province.

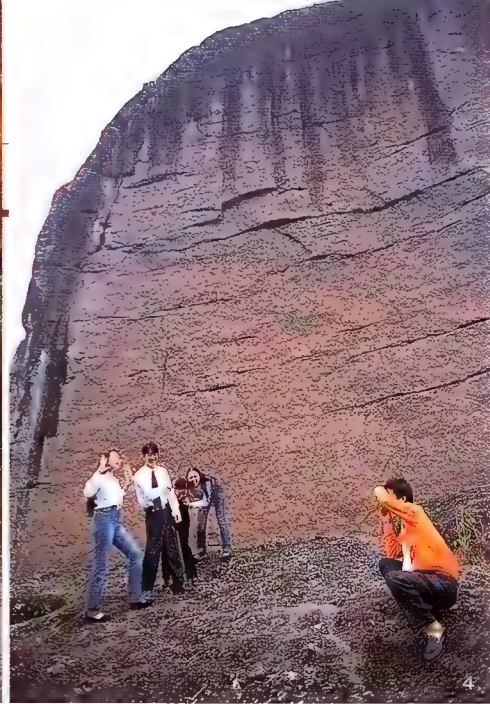
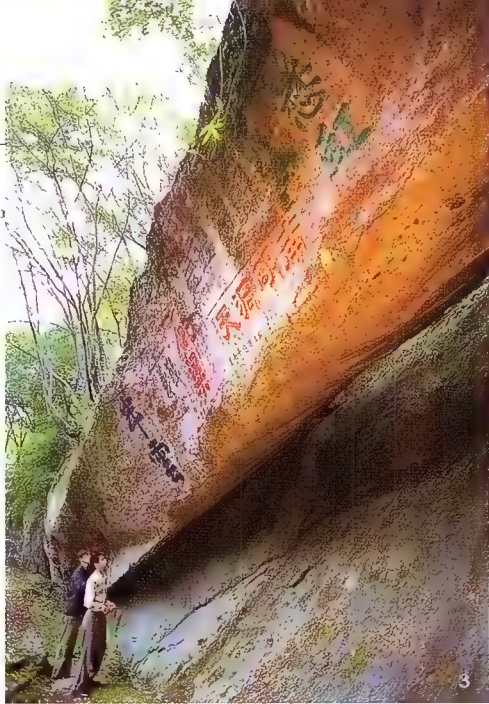


1. A waterfall in Nanming Mountain
2. Rafting on the Oujiang River
3. Stone beams inscribed with calligraphy works are unique treasures of Nanming Mountain.
4. The imposing Daopi Rock
5. A picturesque scene at the foot of Nanming Mountain (by Wang Miao)



Tips for Travelling Lishui

- **Transport:** Special buses go from Lishui City to Mount Nanming, a 1.5-kilometre journey. It is 30 kilometres from Lishui to East and West Rocks; regular buses go to Laozhu Township.
- **Accommodation:** The Nanming Hotel in Lishui has standard rooms for 198 yuan and single rooms for 138 yuan.
- **Scenic spots:** Nearby in Yunhe is the Xiangong (Immortal Palace) Lake and in Jingning, the She Ethnic Folk Culture Village.
- **Shopping:** Longquan blue porcelains, Qingyuan mushrooms, Chuzhou white lotus seeds, Songyang Red Tobacco, Huiming tea and wooden toys.
- **Delicacies:** White Pear of Yunhe and Bean-curd dishes.



Qingtian

World-Famous Stone Carvings



Stone-Gate Cave in Qingtian is located on the bank of Oujiang River. It had rained heavily overnight, but by morning it was simply drizzling. The waterfall in the cave cascaded more vigorously than usual in autumn. I walked there to have a

look and soon got soaked. Li Bai, Shen Kuo, Guo Moruo and other men of letters had composed poems and left their calligraphy there.

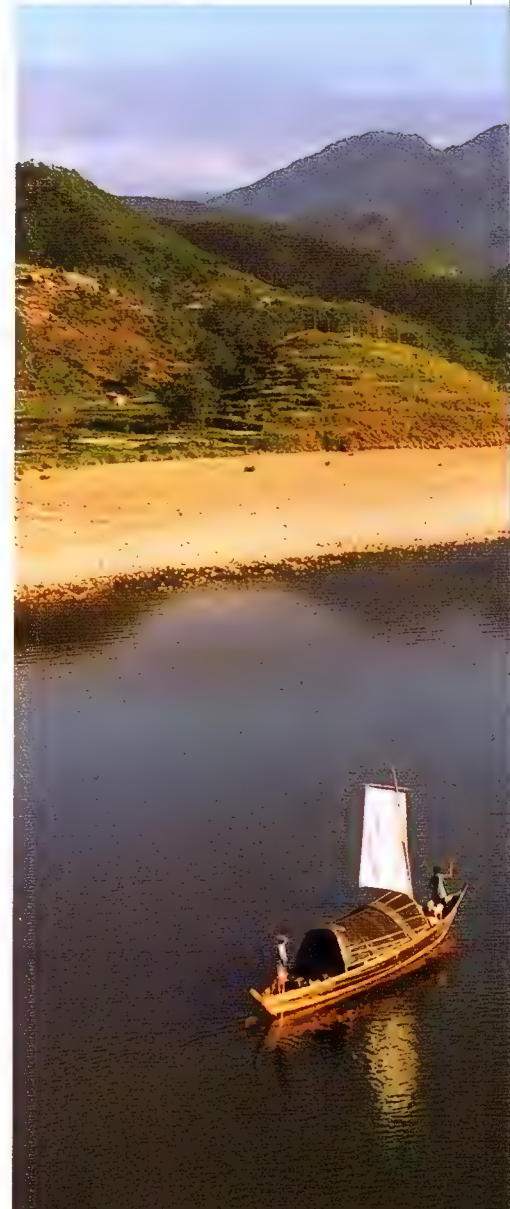
Leaving Stone-Gate Cave, I toured to the east along the Oujiang River until I reached the county town of Qingtian. From here I crossed the river to Shankou, a town famous for stone carvings. Entering the town, I saw stone-carving shops and workshops everywhere. Various kinds of stone carvings, big and small, were displayed in the shops, in people's houses and

even on the street. Some artisans had opened their homes for exhibiting and selling their stone carvings. Everyone here is busy with stone carving, some are manufacturing and selling, others are purchasing and shipping.

The most famous stone-carving artisan of Shankou is Master Ni Dongfang who lives on Yong'an Street. This nationally recognised master of art, over 70 now, has opened the Cherish Stone Studio on the top floor of his house. Displayed in the shop are his 500 works. He does not mind people taking photos of his works, because few can possibly copy his carvings since he has the unique talent of utilising the natural colours of the stones in his creations.

Visiting Master Ni's studio is really a feast for the eyes. Among the best of his stone carvings are *Rice Grain, Autumn* and *Flowers and Moon*.

1. Lucky Eyes, a piece of Qingtian stone carving
2. In the studio of Master Ni Dongfang
3. The tranquil and beautiful Oujiang River (by Xu Guanping)
4. Qingtian stone carving, A Dragon Boat Carrying Twin Pagodas



Tips for Travelling Qingtian

- **Transport:** Stone-Gate Cave is 30 kilometres from Qingtian, and close to a state highway running between Lishui and Qingtian. Regular bus services are available along this route. Shankou is 14 kilometres from Qingtian, and can be reached by taking a minibus at the town centre or the railway station.
- **Accommodation:** The Forest Farm hostel at Stone-Gate Cave has rooms at 60 yuan. Qingtian Hotel's standard room is 198 yuan per night.
- **Scenic spots:** There is a forest park at Stone-Gate Cave, with attractive landscapes and vegetation. Along Oujiang River, there are natural scenery and ancient banyan trees at Wenxi; in town, there are Mount Taihe Park and Qingtian Stone-carving Museum.
- **Shopping:** Qingtian stone carvings, priced from a few yuan up to a million; ordinary pieces cost a few hundred yuan.
- **Delicacies:** Crystal dumplings and fish balls.



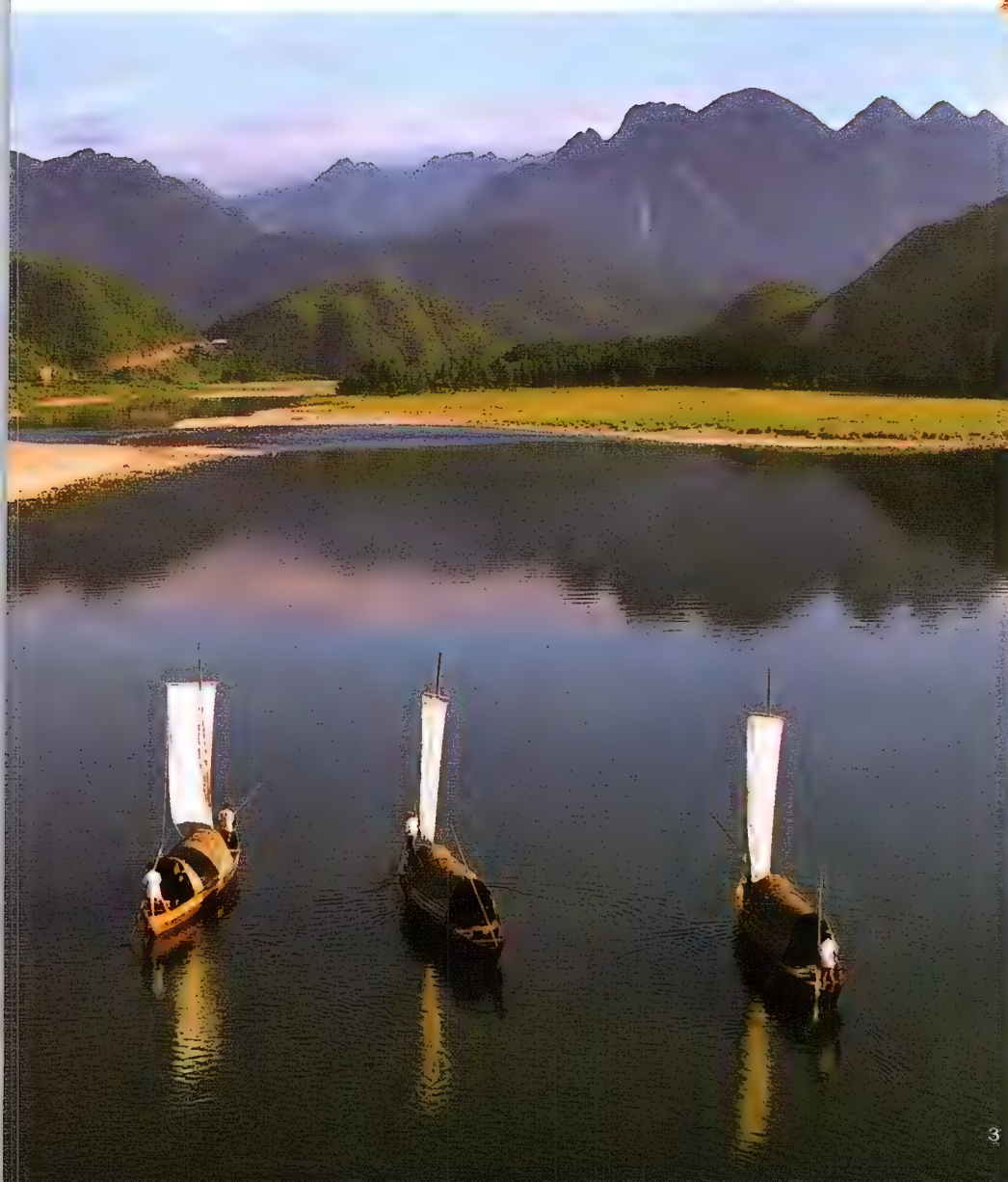
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Jinhua- Wenzhou Railway

A key provincial project, the Jinhua-Wenzhou Railway is the first local railway built with joint investments of 2.825 billion yuan from Zhejiang Province, the Ministry of Railways and a Hong Kong company.

With a total length of 251.5 kilometres, the railway runs from Xindongxiao in Jinhua City to Longwan Port in Wenzhou, passing through Jinhua, Wuyi, Yongkang, Jinyun, Qingtian, Lishui, Ouai, Lucheng and Longwan.

The construction of the railway started on December 18, 1992 and was completed on August 8, 1997. Complicated topographical conditions posed great difficulties to engineers. In the mountainous area, a total of 135 bridges, 930 culverts and 96 tunnels have been built along the railway, averaging one bridge every 1.9 kilometres and one tunnel every 2.6 kilometres. In the Wenzhou section, the track base was soft, posing problems of a different nature.



3

Wenzhou

Prosperous and Tranquil City Scenes



The Jiangxin Islet

At Wenzhou, where the Oujiang flows east to the sea, the Jinhua-Wenzhou Railway also comes to its end. Wenzhou, a small town in East China, has been a miracle of economic development in China. From

Mount Guogong I watched the mist disperse under the morning sun to reveal Jiangxin Islet in the centre of the river.

Ferries take visitors to this islet that is like a garden on the river. There is a lake with row boats for hire, and wooden cottages on the beach for overnight stays. Along a shaded path, you see arched and covered bridges, ancient pagodas on the east and west tips of the islet, and the early Tang-dynasty Jiangxin Temple. The islet as a whole reminds you the wonderland called Penglai described in legendary stories.

Markets and Streets

Wenzhou takes the whole of China as its grand market, and at the same time it also have countless small markets inside and outside the town.



The old street close to the Oujiang Ferry in the northern part of the town still keeps its traditional style. The ancient tall trees on both sides of the street shade the restaurants at Bazi Bridge. Close to the centre of town is a small street called Women's Street, where all the shops sell products for women.

City Tour

Renmin Road is the busiest street in Wenzhou, and it is in this area that

many commercial buildings, hotels, restaurants, recreation centres and speciality shops are concentrated. Other spots that make Wenzhou people proud include the Railway Station, Oujiang Bridge, Hongqiao Airport and some city sculptures and large buildings.

There are many historical places here, such as Taishan Palace at the foot of Mount Guogong which offers a panoramic view over the river, the Tang-dynasty Miaoguo Temple with a Song-dynasty Jituo Bell, and the Drum Tower on Gulou Street built during the Five Dynasties (907-970).





Tips for Travelling Wenzhou

- **Transport:** Taxis charge 10 yuan for the first 4 kilometres, 1.40 yuan for each additional kilometre; a pedicab-ride charges 5 yuan with negotiable charges for longer distances..
- **Accommodation:** Snow Mountain Hotel on the hill in Jinshan Park has the best environment, with trees, fresh air and a good view. Its facilities include an outdoor swimming pool in the woods, tennis courts and indoor health fitness and recreation centres. The standard room rate is 240 yuan. The Wenzhou International Hotel, Wenzhou Hotel and Overseas Chinese Hotel, on or near Renmin Road, sit in the best locations. The standard room rate is 300-400 yuan. The four-star hotels, Dynasty Hotel and Victoria Hotel, have standard rooms of 600-700 yuan per night. There are also several three-star hotels.
- **Shopping:** Dried seafood, Oujiang embroidery, wood carvings of little-leaf box tree, shell carvings, and Oujiang-style sculptures.
- **Delicacies:** Oujiang-style dishes, fish balls, fish cakes and fish noodles, Ziqi fish from Oujiang River, jelly, Soft Cakes, wonton, Zhende big glutinous rice-flour dumplings.

1. Children of Wenzhou
2. Renmin Road, the busiest street of Wenzhou
3. Jiangxin Temple on the Jiangxin Isle
4. Ancient-style new buildings
5. A cruise on the Oujiang River
6. Senior citizens gather in a park, chatting, having tea, and giving each other massages



Wenzhou





1. A nostalgic restaurant serving local delicacies 2. At a wedding banquet
3. A brightly illuminated lamp store 4. The festive night on Wuma Street
5. Wenzhou Shoes City

Timetable of Trains (Hangzhou—Jinhua—Wenzhou)

607/ 606 Express	603/ 602 Express	Y257 /256 Tourist	Y253 /252 Tourist	Train Type	Y254 /251 Tourist	Y258 /255 Tourist	604/ 601 Express	608/ 605 Express
Hangzhou East Wenzhou	Hangzhou East Wenzhou	Changzhou Wenzhou	Shanghai Wenzhou	From To	Wenzhou Shanghai	Wenzhou Changzhou	Wenzhou Hangzhou East	Wenzhou Hangzhou East
		From Changzhou	From Shanghai		To Shanghai	To Changzhou		
9:43	16:30	15:07	23:19	Hangzhou East	49	48	15:18	8:45
59	46		27	Xiaoshan	41	1:40	57	
10:06	53						14:53	
58	17:44	16:10		Zhuji	29		55	26
11:02	18:02	13		Pujiang	2:26		51	7:22
27	27						25	56
31	32						21	52
53	54	54	1:10	Yiniao		47	13:00	31
12:00	19:00	57	13	Jinhua West	59	23:44	56	6:26
48	57	17:45	59		47	46	54	5:08
13:00	20:10	58	2:10	Jinhua South	32	31	39	52
16	26				0:14	22:20	11:23	27
29	34			Wuyi	48	55	58	4:01
14:05	59	18:45	3:05		45	52	55	53
08	21:02	48	08	Yongkang	25	32	35	33
28	22	19:08	28		23:22	21:28	10:28	3:03
31	30	10	31	Jinyun	52	58	58	23
15:01	22:00	40	4:01		49	55	55	2:20
04	02	42	04	Lishui	08	26	26	51
33	32	20:11	33		22:03	20:23	9:12	1:48
39	35	28	36	Qingtian	21:01	12	8:01	46
16:41	23:37	21:38	5:30		59	19:09	59	0:44
43	39	41	41	Wenzhou	20:00	18:10	7:00	23:30
18:05	0:40	22:40	6:45					

Yongjia

Nanxi River Pleasures



rural landscapes like this have gradually decreased in size. The Nanxi River Valley, characterised by clear streams and green mountains, is really a great treasure of China.

The water in Nanxi River is so clear that you can see the riverbed below. An ideal way to enjoy the scenery of this pleasantly zigzagging river is to float down it on a bamboo raft. This way you can revel in the simple life of local people, and also be

The Nanxi River has been strongly favoured by tourists since it was first opened up several years ago. With a big population and increasing pollution,

intoxicated by the unique green woods along the banks — groves of bamboo, pine, maple and poplar trees. With 32 turns and 72 shoals, the Nanxi River zigzags along in the mountains for over 150 kilometres. The entire trip takes about four to five hours.

The Nanxi River Scenic Area covers in total over 800 square kilometres. Apart from the beautiful river landscapes, there are splendid peaks and rocks, such as the Shiwei (Stone Mast) Rock that shoots into the sky as abrupt as a mast on a boat, Twelve Peaks which vie with one another in loftiness, Taogong (Duke Tao's) Cave hidden deep in the rolling mountains and

Tips for Travelling Yongjia

- **Transport:** Buses run daily between Wenzhou and Yongjia. From Yongjia there are bus services to Shizi (Lion) Rock, Daruo Crag, Yantou Town, Shiwei Rock and other scenic spots. Motor tricycles or pedicabs are available between scenic spots.
- **Food and Accommodation:** Each scenic spot has restaurants serving mainly Wenzhou-style food. In the Shiwei Rock Scenic Area, the administrative office can make arrangements for unique and inexpensive meals in ordinary farmer households. At Lion Rock, there are quite a lot of restaurants who also provide lodging, usually at around 30 yuan per bed. Lion Rock Hotel and Furong Villa have rooms for 200-500 yuan per night. At the Daruo Crag, the Daruo Crag Hotel and Youdian Villa charge between 150-200 yuan for a standard room.
- **Renting Bamboo Rafts:** The price depends on the distance. For longer distances such as from Dutou to Lion Rock, it costs about 50 yuan for a raft. For short distances, such as drifting around at Lion Rock, it is about 40 yuan. Each raft carries four people.



Longfeng (Dragon and Phoenix) Waterfall with an 186-metre drop. The serene valleys, sheer cliffs and plank paths, primitive forests, clear streams, crop fields and farmer households scattered in the mountains all fit together in perfect harmony.

Along the Nanxi River there are many graceful villages that have quite a long history. Two examples are Cangpo Village and Furong Village, built in the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) respectively. They are well-known for their layouts, which are based on the "four treasures of the study" and the "Seven Stars-North Star" arrangement. In ancient times, villagers believed these encouraged development of scholars and officials.



1. Children playing at the entrance to their ancient village (by Shi Baoxiu)
2. Villagers enjoy a carefree life. (by Shi Baoxiu)
3. Walking in the rural area is a great pleasure. (by Shi Baoxiu)
4. The thrilling beauty of Lion Rock (by Shi Baoxiu)
5. A scene on the bank of Nanxi River (by Shi Baoxiu)



Leqing


Charming Peaks of Yandang Mountain



Northeast of Wenzhou is a chain of imposing peaks, the spectacular Yandang Mountain, well-known for its scenery since the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

You may go sightseeing on Lingfeng Peak first, which is in an extremely clean and appealing scenic area. A path leads through a thick forest, then up a hidden cliff to a stone pavilion half way up the mountain. In the distance numerous scenic wonders, such as Shuangsun Peak, Hezhang Peak and Guanyin (Goddess of Mercy) Cave, stand along a curved line. Temple houses, towers, pavilions and other structures hidden in the mountain can all be clearly seen. The top of the nine-storey tower at Guanyin Cave offers a marvellous view of Fuhu (Tiger-Subduing) Peak, Luotuo (Camel) Peak, Jinji (Golden Rooster) Peak and Chaoyun Peak, as well as pavilions, pagodas and platforms.

Another attraction is seeing the sun rise from a sea of clouds. You have to climb up Baigangjian along a plank road cut out of a sheer cliff. All the way you have a broad landscape view. The sunrise produces a gorgeous view with shafts of colourful lights piercing thick hazy clouds hovering on the peaks. At the foot of Baigangjian lies the Dalongqiu Scenic Area. Dalongqiu, a gigantic waterfall, drops down over 190 metres from a ring-shaped cliff to the bottom of the valley, generating a dazzling rainbow under the morning sun. Surrounding the fall are the lofty Furong Peak and the low but sturdy Yifan Peak, and to the right are Shamao Peak and Guanyin Peak.

Visiting Fangdong Cave on a foggy day is a very special experience. As thick fog surges up from the valley, covering the mountain peaks and obscuring your view, you walk gingerly across a cable bridge. It is like flying in the clouds as immortals. In the Lingyan Scenic Area, there are spots with interesting names, such as Cuttlefish Rock and Dragon Nose Cave. 

Translated by M. Q. and Z. G. Li



Tips for Travelling Leqing

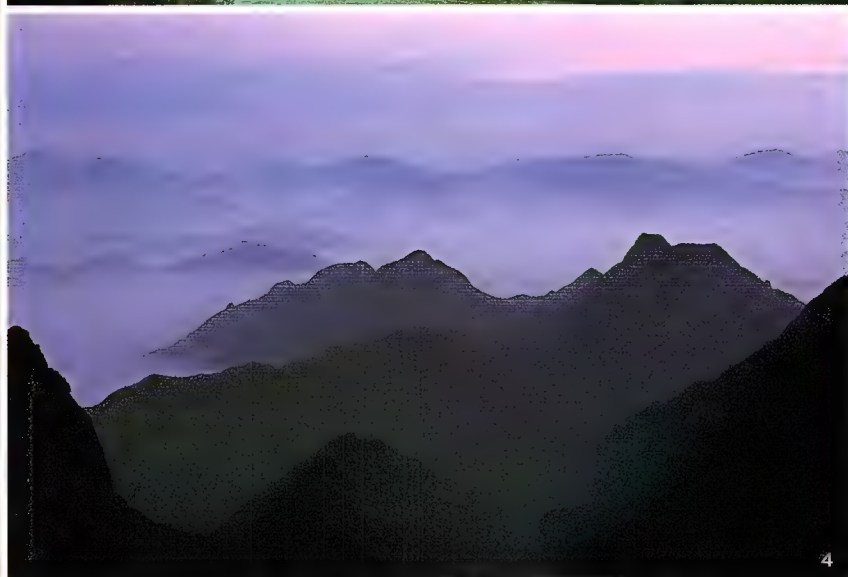
- **Transport:** Express buses drive 45 minutes to get to Leqing from the Southern Bus Station in Wenzhou. In Leqing, scheduled bus services take you to Yandang Mountain with a one-hour journey. Within the various scenic areas, there are minibuses, taxis and a few motor tricycles whose fares, usually about 10 yuan per person, are negotiable.
- **Accommodation:** The top choice is the three-star Chaoyang Villa, which, located only one kilometre away from Lingfeng Peak, features unique architecture and decoration, plentiful sunshine and an excellent environment. The standard room rates are from 320 to 480 yuan.
- **Sightseeing:** The major tourist attractions are Lingfeng Peak, Lingyan Cliff, Dalongqiu Waterfall and Fangdong Cave, as well as Baigangjian for the sunrise. Note that it takes only about half an hour by car from Chaoyang Villa to the top of Baigangjian, thus making sunrise viewing convenient. The various scenic areas sell their own tickets and prices range from 5 to 20 yuan. The cost for a ticket to the night scene at Lingfeng Scenic Area is 15 yuan.
- **Local Delicacies:** The most famous local cuisine includes "Minced Chicken and Fragrant Fish", "Coiled Dragon Playing with Pearls" (stream eels), "Yandang Stone Frog", pot-stewed potato and game, fried yellow croaker, and steamed sea crabs.
- **Shopping:** Boxwood carving; tablecloth with "cross" patterns; bamboo, straw and hemp woven articles; and potted landscapes.

1. A train running in the mountainous area
2. The imposing peaks of Yandang Mountain (by Wang Miao)
3. Mountains and waters in drifting mist (by Wang Jinjiu)
4. Sunrise on Baigangjian

Travelling Along Jinhua-Wenzhou Railway

To Wenzhou: Over 50 air routes connect with Wenzhou, including ones directly from Hong Kong and Macau as well as Urümqi in Xinjiang. The railway, stretching in a northwest direction, has links with cities on some trunk railways of the country. Now, over a dozen express and ordinary passenger trains run from Wenzhou to Beijing, Shanghai, Changzhou, Hankou, Nanjing and Hangzhou. Moreover, the Jinhua-Wenzhou Expressway connects to the Hangzhou-Jinhua-Quzhou Expressway going east to west, thus linking up Wenzhou with the country's hinterland. Along the coast, there is the soon-to-be-completed expressway linking Shanghai, Ningbo and Fujian Province.

Travelling along the Wenzhou-Jinhua route: One can choose either train or bus. In each city and scenic spot, taxis and pedicabs are available. Most of the major scenic areas along the railway line are not far from the cities or railway stations, and thus can easily be visited.






都蘭國際狩獵場簡圖
Sketch Map of Dulan
International Hunting Ground

*Photos by He Ren
Article by Liu Hui*

Hunting on the Highland



We decided to chase argalis in the mountain. There was no road ahead for motor vehicles, so we had to switch to horses. In this part of the world at 4,700 metres above sea level, we saw nothing but barren rock slopes. And the thin air of high altitude gave us headaches.

Then, all of a sudden, we spotted a few grey creatures moving on the top of the mountain ridge. Eventually, we found a big herd of argalis — at least 100 of them — grazing together. It was a magnificent sight!

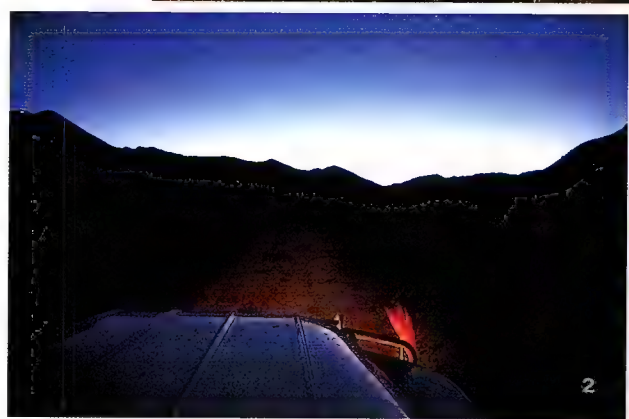
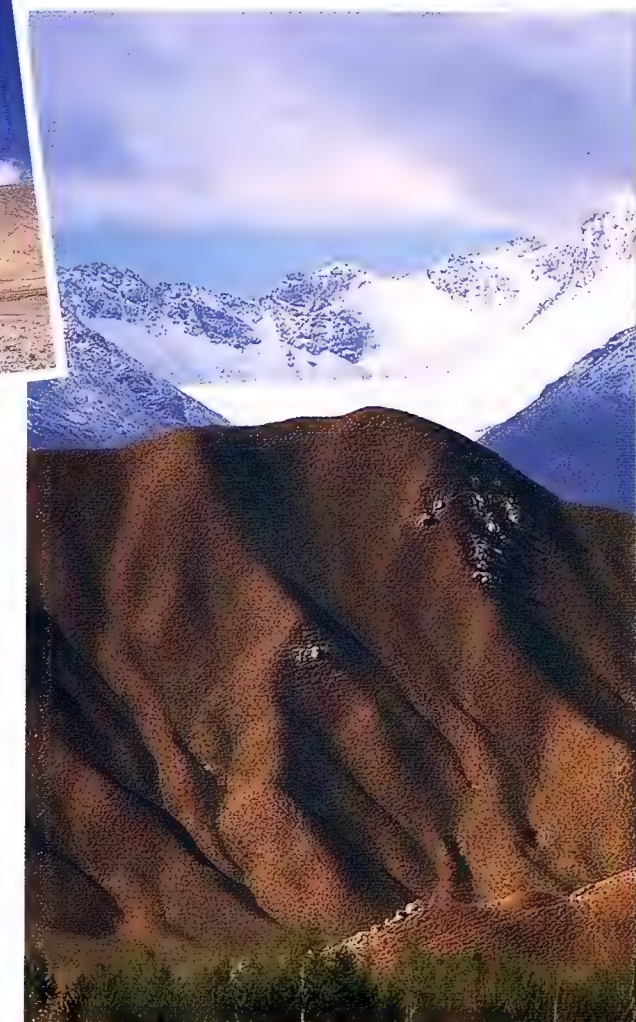


It was early morning and the rain had stopped. As the clouds broke, the sun tossed its rays on the snow-capped mountains. We started from the county seat of Dulan (Qagan Us) in Northwest China's Qinghai Province and drove southwest along State Highway 109. The rain had washed the sky an azure blue. Immense puff-balls of clouds floated about, and a delicate scent filled the air. Such beautiful scenery can be found only on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.

With Mr. Yang, respectfully known as Lao (Old) Yang, a warden from the hunting ground, taking the lead, and Lao Li at the wheel, the four of us set off. Despite our group's small size, we represented three ethnic backgrounds — Yang is Tibetan, Li is Mongolian, and my companion and I are Han. But we had no difficulty communicating, because both Yang and Li speak two or three languages.

An hour or so later, we arrived at Xiangride, 80 kilometres from Dulan, from where we turned south and entered the Burhan Budai Mountain in the central part of Qinghai. This time of the year was the mating season of the argalis, or big-horn sheep, in Dariwuleha Gully. Lao Yang said that because of the previous night's rain, the road ahead would become even more difficult. Before we continued on we bought bottled water and food, and prepared *hatas*, bricks of tea and highland barley wine, which were to be handed out as gifts. At 8 a.m. we embarked on a 100-kilometre journey to search for and photograph wild sheep.

We left Xiangride, climbed over a mountain ridge, and arrived at a place called Xiangjia, an idyllic place where rape flowers were in their full glory, attracting swarms of wild bees. The road ran by Xiangjia Village and gave way to a river at the entrance of a ravine. This was the Tusuo River, a major Qaidam River tributary that arises from the Donggi Cona Lake of the Golog Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in southeastern Qinghai. A while later, our way



ahead was blocked by a mountain ridge, and our jeep had to pass through the 50-metre-wide river. Not knowing how deep the river was, we were worried, but Lao Li, calm and collected, did not see any problem. He deftly drove right into the river. The wheels were immediately half-submerged and water began to penetrate the seams of the doors, turning the jeep into an amphibious vehicle. Only when the jeep roared to the opposite bank did we heave a sigh of relief. Both Lao Li's superb driving skill and the Liberation jeep's excellent performance filled our hearts with admiration.

Previous page:

A vast stretch of grassy mountains lie on the southern edge of the Qaidam Basin where the population is sparse and wildlife plentiful. This is where the Dulan International Hunting Ground is established.

1. During our journey we often came across small groups of wild rabbits and mountain pheasants. These have no hunting limits.
2. It was around 10 p.m., but the sun was still faintly bathing the Qinghai Plateau with light.
3. Leaving the Qinghai-Tibet Highway at Xiangride and travelling south for about 10 kilometres, we arrived at this picturesque ravine.
4. Sculptures hewn by the invisible hand of nature



In the highland,

experienced travellers say that

more frequent meals of small amounts

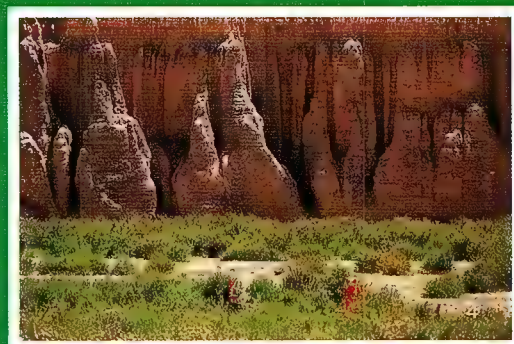
stave off hunger.

Afterwards we found ourselves repeatedly fording rivers, and occasionally we also climbed mountains and crossed dried-up gullies. The experience was as exhilarating as this old proverb: "Where the hills and streams end and there seems no road beyond, a village appears amidst shading willows and blooming flowers."

This part of the world is rarely visited. Every now and then we startled wild rabbits and fowls. Around 1 p.m. we arrived at a solitary herdsman's cottage on a broad expanse of grassland. Only the old couple were in this Tibetan family dwelling since their sons were herding their

sheep in a summer grazing ground. When they learned that we had come from afar, they invited us in for tea. Observing the Tibetan etiquette, we offered them *hatas* and brick tea, and wished them good luck. In return, they invited us to lunch.

In no time cattle dung was lit for a fire, and a pot of





1. Lao Yang

2. were congregating in Dariwuleha Gully

3. so he rode up to the 4,700-metre-high

summit in search of them

buttered tea brewed. Following Lao Yang, we picked up some *tsampa*, a Tibetan staple food made of roasted highland barley flour, and began to munch on it. The old women cooked a pot of noodle soup with dried meat which, despite a lack of seasoning, was rather tasty to us. In the highland, hunger is a common feeling; experienced travellers say that more frequent meals of small amounts each time are the best solution.

After lunch, we resumed our journey. The Tusuo River disappeared, and the jeep ran laboriously in a pebbly ravine. Our temples began to throb, and our heads were aching, which obviously meant we were travelling at a rather high altitude. Mr. Li said this alpine area was over 4,000 metres above sea level. The wide ravine reverberated with the humming of the jeep's motor, and pebbles creaked under the wheels. The jeep was shaking violently like a tiny boat rocking and rolling on an angry sea.

After what seemed an eternity, at 4 p.m., we pulled up in front of the Sandanquegu Temple, a rather famous

one in Dulan County. The abbot was a 20-year-old graduate from the Tibetan Buddhist College in Beijing, and he accorded us a warm welcome. Upon learning that in the last few days big-horn sheep were congregating in the Dariwuleha Gully, we decided immediately to search for them. There was no more road ahead for automobiles, so we had to go on horseback to the mountain.

Lao Yang managed to rent three horses from the local herdsmen, so Mr. Li stayed behind. At 5 p.m. the three of us entered the Ulehar River valley, and then proceeded towards the mountain top along the slope. The slope was rather steep, and before long the horses were running short of breath. We had to follow a zigzagging course to preserve their energy. Lao Yang is a veteran horseman while I am a rider of sorts, having stayed for sometime in a pastoral area. But my companion had never ridden a horse before and seemed to be having a hard time.

Having proceeded for three or four kilometres, we were close to the mountain top at 4,700 metres above sea

1. Lao Yang, a warden and indigenous Tibetan in the hunting ground, knows well when and where different animals gather. Over the years he has accompanied hunters from Europe and North America.
2. Eventually we caught up with a herd of more than one hundred big-horn sheep at the 4,700-metre mountain top.
3. A mountain of strange stone midway on our journey



level. We continued our climb, but at this altitude any slight movements could cause shortness of breath and headaches. We dismounted for a short rest on the rocks.


We suddenly spotted a number of argalis, big-horn sheep, as the local people call them. Unfortunately, they were too far away, and it was impossible to take a clear picture of them. We could only observe them through binoculars. The presence of argalis was a good sign though, indicating that large herds of sheep were not far away. Lao Yang assured us that on the other side of the mountain there must be a great herd of them, because these ones which stood at vantage points were sentinels.

To avoid startling the wild sheep, we approached them from the sides, stealthily inching forward like guerrilla soldiers raiding an enemy camp. When we reached the other side of the mountain, we saw a magnificent scene unfolded before us. There were at least 100 sheep grazing lazily there. Never having seen such a large herd of wild sheep,

I immediately raised my camera. Suddenly two rock pheasants flew up, and the sheep quickly closed ranks and then galloped several dozen metres away before standing still and craning their necks to stare at the intruders.

A short while later, the herd, perhaps convinced that our long lenses were a menace, were quickly led by its head sheep over the mountain. At 4,700 metres, we had no hope of catching them. When we reached the other side, the sheep were disappearing into the distance. However, we still felt fortunate to have seen them.

Descending down the mountain, Lao Yang told us more about the hunting ground. According to him, all those who come to Barun on a hunting excursion make it a point to observe the local hunters' rules: never shoot at animals that are healthy, strong, or too young or female. The old, weak, sick, and handicapped were legitimate targets.

It was late and pitch dark when we returned to the temple. The twinkling stars seemed so close. It was a scene and feeling far beyond the city dwellers' imagination. 

Translated by Ling Yuan

Dulan International Hunting Ground

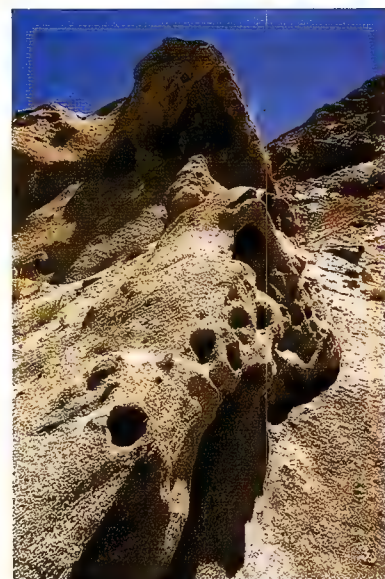
The Dulan International Hunting Ground in Dulan County of the Haixi Mongolian and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Qinghai Province, is situated in the Burhan Budai Mountain on the southeastern edge of the Qaidam Basin. Covering nearly 9,000 square kilometres, it consists of two parts: the eastern part with Kugri Township in the centre, and the western part, centred on Barun Township. In this typical Northwest China wilderness, the mountains are high and the gullies deep. Since the area was designated as a wildlife reserve in the 1980s, it became home to over 5,000 yaks, red deer, wild asses and white-lip deer, and more than 4,000 blue sheep. A few years ago, the Dulan International Hunting Ground was established to accommodate registered hunters to shoot blue sheep and argalis. Hunting is prohibited during the breeding season from the end of April to the mid-August. There are two hunting seasons: from early March to late April, and from late August to early November. Only overseas hunters with government approval are allowed in, with limits on the catches.

Tips for the Traveller

Transport: Buses go from the Xiguan Bus Station in Xining, capital of Qinghai Province, and take an entire day to cover the 400-odd kilometres to Dulan. Make sure to get the approval of the headquarters of the Dulan Hunting Ground before you set off. You must rent a very good cross-country jeep, and hire a driver who is familiar with local road conditions.

Food and Lodging: Since a one-day return trip is impossible, you'd better be prepared to stay overnight with a local Tibetan family or camp in the wilderness. The hospitable Tibetans generally refuse to accept cash payments, but they do appreciate gifts such as liquor, tea and *hatas*. Tibetan herdsmen love to treat their guests to meat eaten with the hands, buttered tea, and roasted highland barley flour. If these do not suit your taste, bring along some of your own food.

Suggestion: Aspiring hunters may contact the Qinghai Branch of the China International Travel Service in Xining. Tel: (971) 614 3711



New Attractions in *Photos by Zhou Jin Article by Qin Han* Shanghai

More new attractions have appeared in Shanghai: the pagoda-styled skyscraper, the old British ocean liner, and the Shanghai Book City. As some people say about the metropolis, "You look at it with new eyes if you are away for three days." The new Shanghai conforms to no conventional pattern.



Jinmao Tower: A Building of 88 Storeys

The magnificent winding corridors of Jinmao Tower's 31-storey-high Central Lobby

The figure 88 is an auspicious one for the Chinese. Shanghai's Jinmao (Golden Prosperity) Tower, an 88-storey building in 13 sections, resembles an ancient Chinese pagoda. It is 420.5 metres high, the highest building ever in China and the third highest in the world. Its observing terrace on the 88th floor can hold 1,000 people. The Grand Hyatt Shanghai Hotel on the 56th-87th floors is said to be the highest luxury hotel in the world.

The tower's base is supported by 1,062 steel pillars, some of which are sunk down 80 metres deep.

Jinmao Tower is located at the centre of Lesser Lujiazui in Pudong, which is the city's financial centre. As its name, Golden Prosperity, suggests, it has become a symbol of wealth and prosperity of Shanghai.



The modern-style decoration of the Central Lobby



Restaurants on the 56th floor offer various flavours, along with the "Ninth Heaven Bar", piano bar and small bars.



Although completely sealed off, the top-floor still offers a panoramic view of Shanghai.

The World's Highest Hotel

The Grand Hyatt Shanghai has become the world's highest hotel since it opened in March 1999. Occupying the top 35 floors of Jinmao Tower, the hotel has 555 guest rooms including 34 business and executive suites, eight diplomatic suites, two presidential suites and one chairperson's suite.

The hotel's Communication Centre on the 54th floor provides a full range of office equipment and 24-hour service from Monday to Friday, with shorter hours on weekends and holidays.

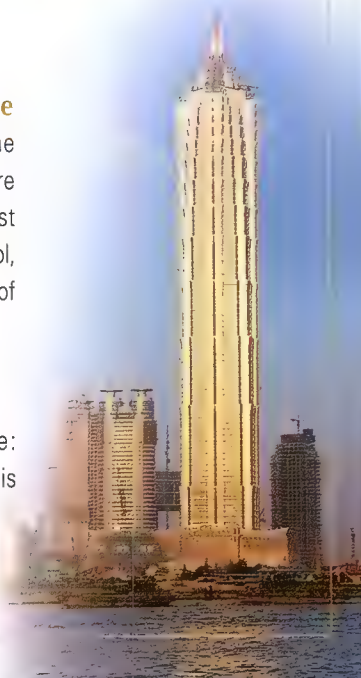
The World's Highest Fitness Centre

Guests at the hotel can also enjoy the wonderful facilities at the Oasis Fitness Centre at the 57th floor billed as the world's highest fitness centre. Standing by the swimming pool, you can overlook the breathtaking panorama of Shanghai's skyline.

Inquiry telephone: (21) 5830 3338

Fax: (21) 5830 8838

Rates: Standard room: US\$138, suite: US\$168; executive suites: US\$338. (There is also a 15% service fee added on.)



Though the Oriana seems quiet at night, singing and dancing, dining and many other lively activities are going on inside.



Oriana: The Ocean Liner on Huangpu River



Many murals inside the ship are based on the world's famous ships.

The Oriana has quietly started business at Xinhua Dock in Pudong. This huge ocean liner for sightseers, made in Britain, has a discharge capacity of more than 10,000 tons. It is about 250 metres long, 30 metres wide and 50 metres high, equalling the height of a 16-storey building. It is said to be the world's largest ship museum, which provides an arena for sightseeing, leisure, business affairs, dining and recreation.



All the equipment on the ocean liner is original.

The Impressive Royal Magnificence

Displayed on the each deck are various collections of the British royal family, including portraits of the royal family members, dinner sets and all types of gorgeous ship chairs. A special class cabin is also open to the public.

A Museum of Famous Ships

Covering the third and fourth decks is the "Museum of the World's Famous Ships", where many historical photos and paintings with detailed captions illustrate the world's most famous luxury liners of the last century. The Oriana's bridge, chart room, captain's room, engine room, and even the lower deck, are all open to visitors.

Enjoying World-wide Delicacies

The ocean liner has various bars and restaurants such as The Navigators, The Watcher, Sacks, Elizabeth Restaurant, and The Deck Beer Garden. They provide English food as well as various delicacies of the world.

A Romantic Wedding on the Deck

The "Love of the Sea" Wedding on the deck is novel, interesting and unforgettable. It is a traditional English ceremony conducted by "the Old Captain" who makes a congratulatory speech, while sailors line up and applaud.



Inside the captain's room

Many Colourful Events

There are many events for visitors, beginning at 12:00 noon and lasting till midnight. It is impossible for any visitor to watch or attend all the events in one visit. These include the Olympic Games on the deck, handiwork, cookery demonstration, simulated navigation, games, discos, nightclub show and more.

Address: 8-9 Berths of Xinhua Dock, Dongfang Road, Pudong, Shanghai

Telephone: (21) 6887 6379 Fax: (21) 6887 8558

Admission ticket: 60 yuan per person (10% discount for groups of 10 or more). A ticket entitles you to visit or participate in 54 events. To explore the lower deck costs another 30 yuan. Food and drinks are not included.



The beer bar is permeated with an air of antiquity.



Portraits of the British royal family are displayed on the fourth deck.

Shanghai Book City opened in December, 1998.



Two new bookstores have opened in Shanghai. The head office shop of Shanghai Book City is located at No. 465, Fuzhou Road. It covers six floors, with a floor space totalling 12,000 square metres. The first floor is for books on daily life and various exhibitions; the second floor is for music books, audio equipment and electronic publications; the third to the sixth floors are for books on social science, education, science and technology, as well as culture and art.

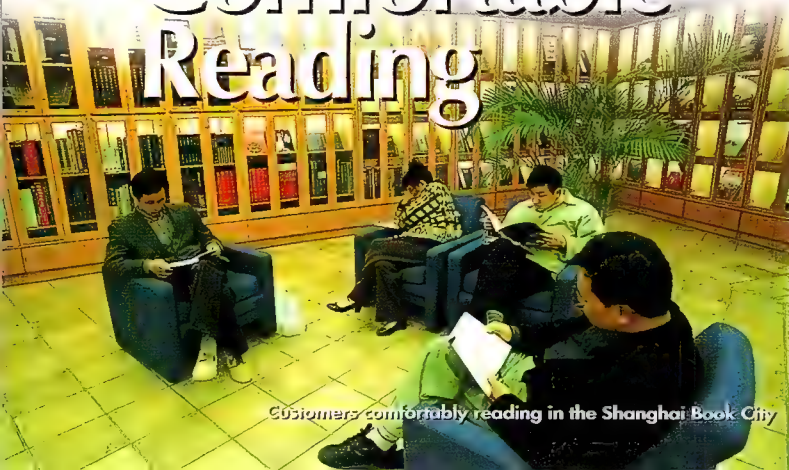
The branch shop, at No. 701, Huaihai Road Central, has four floors open to readers.



The spacious first floor

Both bookstores are big and bright, spacious enough for 3,000-4,000 people reading or shopping at the same time. The variety and quantity of Chinese and foreign books they handle are rarely seen in other bookstores. Most unusual are the comfortable armchairs in the section of voluminous and classical books; they obviously play the role of encouraging customers to browse a while.

Shanghai Book City: Comfortable Reading



Customers comfortably reading in the Shanghai Book City

A Cultural Tour in Shanghai

Shanghai Library

Whether for business or leisure, during a trip in Shanghai, one can become "a bookworm" for a time. The best place to buy books, of course, is the Shanghai Book City opened only six months ago. For in-depth references or rare classic books, the Shanghai Library is the place to go.

Shanghai Library, established in 1952, is on Huaihai Road. After having been enlarged several times, it now has over 13 million copies of books and a capacity of 3,000 seats for readers; it is one of the world's 10 top libraries. The library also provides internet services for readers.

Address: 1555 Huaihai Road Central

Telephone: (21) 6445 5555

Opening hours: 8:30-20:00

Transport: Bus Nos. 15, 93, 126, 526 and 911

Shanghai Museum

Although Shanghai's history is not as long as Xi'an, Nanjing, Beijing and Luoyang, it would be wrong to underestimate the collection of ancient articles of Shanghai Museum. Through various channels, the museum has collected 123,000 pieces of rare cultural relics, including inscriptions on bones or tortoise shells, bronzes, pottery and porcelain, coins, and calligraphy works and paintings. It has become famous all over the country for its rich and high-quality collection, and advanced facilities.

Address: 201 People's Road

Telephone: (21) 6327 0276

Opening hours: 9:00-17:00

Saturday extension: 17:00-20:00

Transport: Bus Nos. 18, 46, 49, 71, 127, 202 and 505. Subway: alight at People's Square.



Shanghai Film City

This is a large, multi-functional, modern recreational city with a unique building style and advanced equipment. The sight and sound in the cinema hall can be considered world class. The film city also has exhibition halls, bars, karaoke rooms, coffee houses and discos.



Address: 106 Xinhua Road
 Telephone: (21) 6280 6088
 Transport: Bus Nos. 48, 72, 113 and 126

Shanghai Great Theatre

Designed by a French architect, and equipped with advanced facilities, the theatre has a capacity for 2,000 people. It is suitable for staging ballet, operas, dramas and symphonies.

Address: 190 Huangpi Road North
 Telephone: (21) 6387 5480
 Transport: Subway and Bus Nos. 20, 37, 46, 49 and 109

Shanghai Botanical Garden

This botanical garden with more than 3,000 species is said to be China's largest one established in the urban area. Its gardens and rooms are divided for various plants or subjects, such as potted landscapes, pines and cypresses, azaleas, peonies, roses, maples,



osmanthus, medical herbs, bamboo and orchids, and the environment.

Address: 1111 Longwu Road
 Telephone: (21) 6451 3369
 Transport: Bus Nos. 56 and 111;
 Longwu special-line buses

Stamp, Coin and Card Market

Covering an area of 1,300 square metres and comprising 60 booths and 300 open stands, it is the largest market of its kind in China. Articles for exchange include: various local telephone cards, national telephone cards, IC cards, commemorative cards, coins from various countries, including gold and silver coins, commemorative coins and ancient coins, exchange notes, match-box trade marks, cigarette brands, and sugar, cloth and grain coupons.

Address: 600 Jumen Road
 Telephone: (21) 6301 3088
 Transport: Bus Nos. 89, 96, 109, 780 and 781



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Tel: 62551133 Fax: 62550211

① A cauldron that can cook rice for hundreds of people

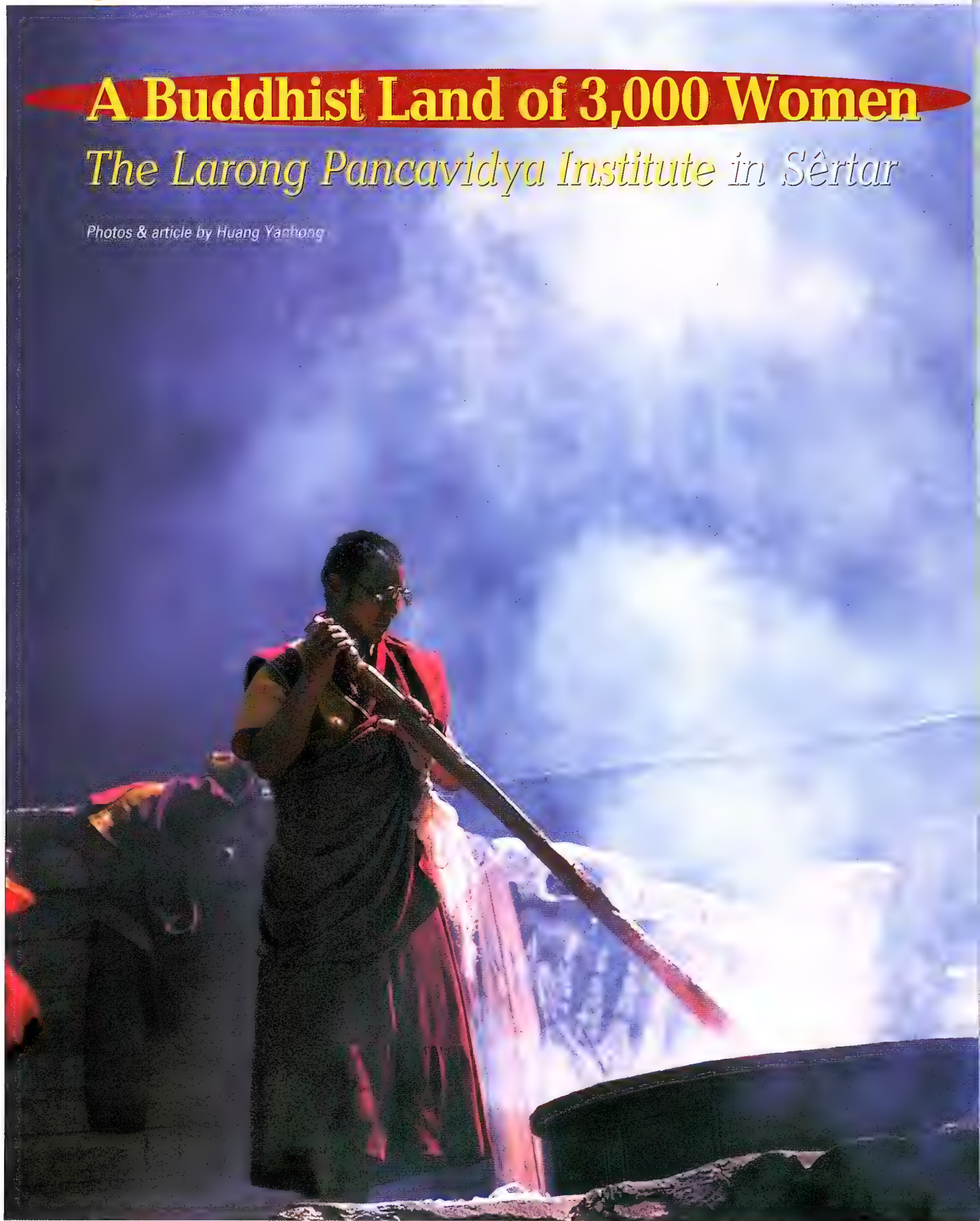
② Chanting scriptures in Larong Temple

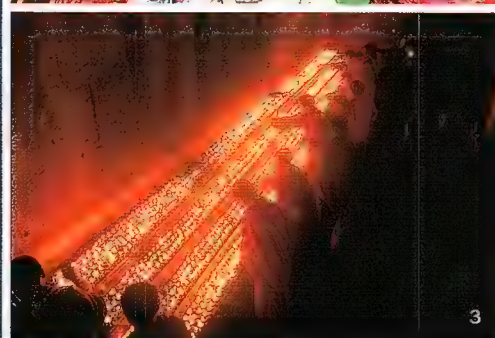
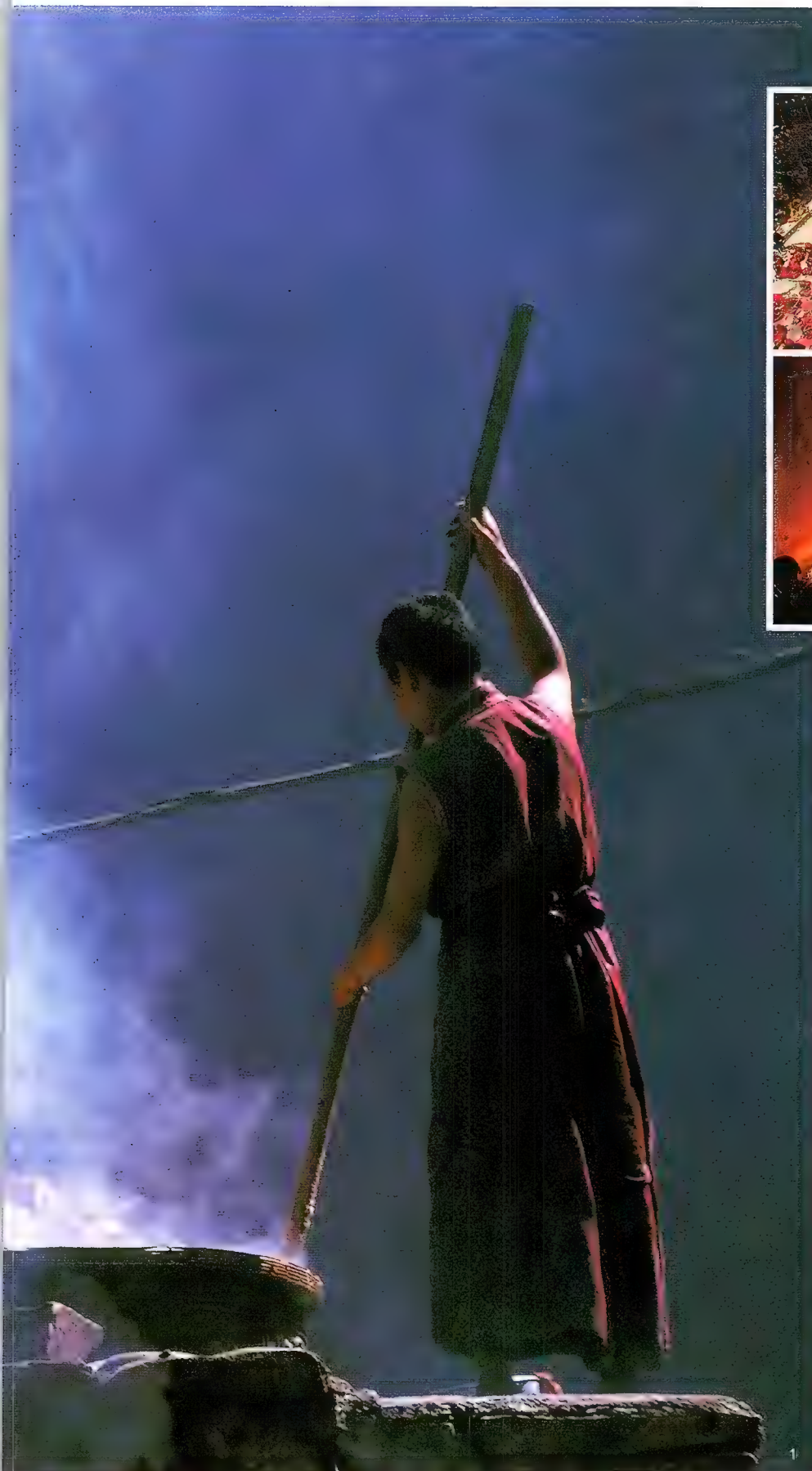
③ Eternal lamps in the prayer hall

A Buddhist Land of 3,000 Women

The Larong Pancavidya Institute in Sêrtar

Photos & article by Huang Yanhong





It is rumoured that after singing the song *Qinghai-Tibet Plateau*, the famous Beijing singer Li Na mysteriously disappeared, perhaps to Sêtar in Sichuan Province. At the Larong Pancavidya Institute here women make up 3,000 of its 5,000 students.

This Buddhist seminary is truly the only one of its kind in the world. What is also surprising is that there are more than 500 students of the Han ethnic group who have enrolled in this institute on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau to study the Tibetan language and scriptures.

① The temple in the evening light

② Tibetan Buddhists demonstrating internal energy

③ Butter-burning lamps in the prayer hall

Dispelling the Rain

The plateau rushed by as we drove in the rain. Now and then I could see collapsed cliffs and the muddy road. After climbing over Zhugu (Partridge) Mountain, we had to wait several times for bulldozers to clear the rubble before continuing on.

After entering Sêrtar County at the eastern end of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau that extends into Sichuan, the road became even more difficult. Luckily, our driver was a local man who knew his way. The four-wheel-drive jeep also helped.

It was already very late when we reached the county town. As our friends welcomed us in the rain, they said that a Living Buddha had been chanting scriptures since the morning to drive away the rain. They were looking forward to a fine weather the next day. After a good night's sleep, I was surprised to awaken to a perfectly fine day. Did the Living Buddha work wonders or was it simply a coincidence? I was grateful anyway.

A Drifting Song

On our way to the Larong Pancavidya Institute, also known



as the Larong Temple, the driver switched on the jeep's radio. "Who is it that has echoed the call of the ancient times? Who is it that left behind the aspirations of a thousand years?" The sound of Li Na's voice echoed in the air as if it was drifting down from the skies. Recalling the rumour, I asked the driver if the singer was really in Larong, Sêrtar. He said he had asked several lamas about it, but all said that they knew nothing.

Driving into Larong Valley was like driving into an old

movie, where a whole mountain was dotted with several thousand densely arranged reddish-brown wooden cabins. There were scripture halls, pagodas, red walls and people dressed in red robes walking among them. It was the day of the annual Grand Ceremony of Offering to Boddhisattva Samantabhadra. The sound of scripture chanting boomed out



4 Even goats listen to lectures.

5 Decorated pillars in the prayer hall

6 Zhou Shu'er plays the zither only at a religious ceremony.



of the 2,000-square-metre Great Prayer Hall, where several thousand monks, nuns and believers were sitting on the floor. As many as 1,000 butter-burning lamps divided the hall into two sections with nuns on the left and monks on the right. The temple has strict rules of segregation. The "government road" (a dirt road for vehicles) divided the institute into the upper section for men and lower section for women. In previous times, contact between monks and nuns was prohibited. In curiosity, I decided to call upon a few of the nuns here.

A Wish to Study Medicine

Lying on the floor, Liao Xicuo was reading *The Esoteric Severance of Temptations*. She was 17 and had run away from home a few years ago. When her family found her, they encouraged her to stay at the institute.

"Did you quit school because you were a poor student?" I asked with a smile. "Not at all! I ranked the fifth in the class. It was destiny that brought me here," she answered like a mature woman.

Liao Xicuo was born in Huoxian County, Sichuan Province. Her father was Han, and her mother, Tibetan. Her name means "sea of wisdom" in Tibetan. As she grew up in a Tibetan area, she was deeply influenced by Buddhist surroundings. The day when Living Buddha Gyimi Xaco came to lecture on the



Buddhist truth, she was inspired to come to this seminary.

When I asked her about her wishes for the future, she said that besides Buddhism, she wants to study medicine. She often goes to the clinic for the Han monks to help out. She has learned to give injections and dispense medicines. The doctor there is a highly skilled retiree from the Northeast.



Giving Up on Harvard

I found Zhou Shu'er cultivating a small vegetable garden. She politely invited us to the small living room and offered us tea. The special fragrance of green tea immediately filled the room.

I asked about her life in the seminary. She said that it is very regular: arising at 3:30 a.m. to read and chant scriptures; a breakfast of self-made glutinous rice cakes at 7:30 a.m.; classes until noon. There are also afternoon classes of Tibetan and Sanskrit languages lasting until 7 p.m.

Zhou Shu'er is a graduate of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, majoring in the zither and musical theories. Working in Beijing after graduation, she prepared to continue her education at Harvard University in the United States. Chance brought her into contact with Buddhism and thus, she came to Sêtar and became a lay Buddhist.

I was interested to learn that there are more than 500 Han Chinese students at the seminary. With so many Han students studying Tibetan Buddhism and understanding Tibetan lifestyles, the cultural exchanges between the two peoples have become a two-way route.

She then took me to her prayer room, which had Buddhist statues along the central wall and a zither in a corner.

"Do you often play it?" I asked. She said that to avoid disturbing others or herself, she only plays at religious

① Thousands of wooden cabins dot the mountain slope.

② Guo Jing compiles teaching materials on the computer.



ceremonies. To satisfy my curiosity, she plucked the strings, stopped before I could recognise the tune. Somehow the zither's sound rang in my ears for several days.

Missing Mother's Cooking

Guo Jing kneaded a string of beads as she talked with me. She looked young, yet she was already a Kanmu, a lecturer, here. She was also studying Tibetan Buddhism in greater depth.

"I've been a nun for nine years. After graduating from the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Languages, I was assigned to teach in a secondary school. Later, I studied at the Shanghai Buddhist Seminary." Guo Jing spoke in a smooth, even voice like a gently flowing river. As we talked, a nun called her

to help in the computer room. Curious, I followed them.

This was an unconventionally decorated room. Guo Jing worked the mouse adroitly and opened Windows

'98. The six-word Buddhist mantra then appeared on the computer screen. "The software has just been installed and is used for translating and compiling teaching materials which were only in Tibetan before. The Han students could not read them," Guo Jing said as she continued to press the keys.

I asked her why so many Han students come to Sêrtar. She gave a long string of reasons. It is a good place for studying; there is a special department for Han monks and nuns, where lessons are taught by Tibetan high monks well versed in Han Chinese; and Han students have added benefits — those in financial difficulty are given a monthly subsidy of 80 yuan.

As for everyday life, she said she was still not quite accustomed to it. Fresh vegetables are scarce on the high plateau and she is not a good cook. She confessed that she misses most her mother's home cooking.



3 Puncog Lhamu's home

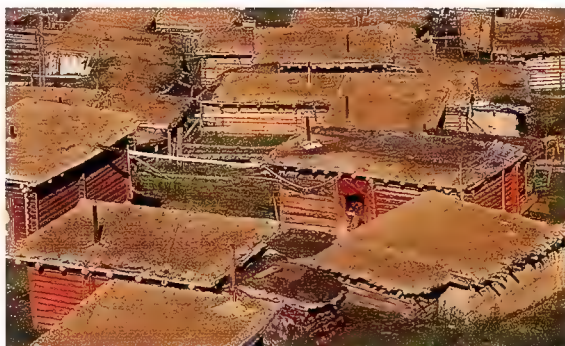
4 A corner of the residential area



On-the-Spot Decision

The day I met Puncog Lhamu was her seventh day of being a nun. Puncog Lhamu was her new name, which means "Perfect Angel" in Tibetan. She said that she had been a lay Buddhist for many years and hesitated about becoming a nun. She had a happy family. Her husband is a painter and also a Buddhist believer. Her daughter is in primary school. Deeply moved by the religious atmosphere at a Buddhist ceremony, she made the decision on the spot.

She looked a little tired. After sitting in the courtyard for several days, the burning sun on the plateau had chapped the skin on her newly shaved head. She had been an opera singer in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang in the Northeast, going on stage at 15, singing Peking Opera, and later playing major roles in imported musicals. She had won a national award for fine stage



artists at a theatrical festival.

With the permission of the dean of the seminary's Han department, she took me to the place where she lived. She walked into the courtyard, squatted down and patted a black dog near the door.

"He comes with me to listen to the scriptures and never makes any noise. Animals are intelligent too," she told me.

What puzzled me was why she had abandoned her happy family to become a nun in the distant Sêtar. Her answer was, "It's fate. It's also for attaining perfection in personality."

A Tibetan 'Mother'

I met Zhang Bing when I went to the prayer hall for information about transport. Zhang Bing had come to Sêtar to see her "mother". She also has a beautiful Tibetan name, Nombu Joma, given by her "mother", meaning "Baby Goddess". She did not look like a goddess but more like a knight because she had a sanguine disposition and spoke spiritedly.

She took me to see her "mother". The wooden cabin is a very small one in the nuns' area. Her "mother" was a Tibetan from Huoxian in Sichuan Province that Zhang Bing met by accident. A student of classical architecture, Zhang Bing worked as an interior decorator after graduation from university. Some time ago, she toured the plateau area with some friends and fell in love with it. On the Luhuo Grassland, she visited a family in a *niuchawa* (black felt yurt) and soon became a friend of the family. The old mother liked her and became her "mother" too. Zhang Bing said that she likes the simple and honest way of the people there, which is missing in the big cities.

When I asked her how she travelled to Sêtar, she said, "I bought a jeep in Chengdu and drove here by myself." Knowing the difficulties of the journey myself, my admiration for her increased.

Zhang Bing told me that her Tibetan mother's 13-year-old son was studying at the institute. Missing her son, the

mother also stays at the seminary, but can only see him in the evening on the "government road" since he stays in the monk's area. Zhang Bing is not a nun, nor a lay Buddhist, but has warm feelings for and is interested in Tibetan Buddhism.

Nuns of the Larong Pancavidya Institute at the initiation ceremony of the Golden Horse Festival



Sêtar: Full Illustration of Tibetan Customs

Sêtar is located in northeastern Garzê Prefecture in Sichuan Province. Its name, which means "Golden Horse" in the Tibetan language, is said to have been derived from a gold nugget shaped like a horse head that was discovered there. Located at an average altitude of 4,000 metres above sea level, Sêtar's air is thin but absolutely fresh and pure. Sêtar boasts beautiful steppes dotted with numerous rivers and lakes. Many visitors have been unwilling to leave. There is plentiful sunshine in Sêtar, with an average of 2,500 hours of sun each year.

In terms of culture, it is not exaggeration to consider Sêtar as a condensed version of Tibet. Over the 9,000 square kilometres of land, there are more than 30 religious establishments, including the Damka and Larong temples and Donden Quden Buddhist Pagoda. Lake Nyela, the Immortal Rock and Five-Coloured Lake are sights rarely seen in any other region.



1 A serene scene under the pagoda

2 Devout nuns parade in clock-wise circles.

3 People from all over gather on the steppe.

Golden Horse Festival

The last 10 days of July, the time when people gather and celebrate, are the most enchanting days of the year on the steppe. Originally only a religious festival, it later became the Golden Horse Festival.

On the day marking the beginning of the festival, the steppe was a scene of joy. Some Tibetans who arrived early had already put up their colourful yurts and begun their worshipping by burning mulberry branches, from which smoke drifted up. The incarnation ceremony at the Donden Quden Pagoda was the prelude to the festival. I hurriedly climbed to

the top of a pagoda several dozen metres above ground. The view was truly spectacular. Monks in the dark red robes moved around amidst incense smoke. They were followed by nuns dressed in colourful clothes who walked in a circle on the grassland. The festival's religious atmosphere was glowing.

Besides religious ceremonies, there are also entertainment programs held during the festival. The herdsmen on the steppe, capable equestrians one and all, would not miss this opportunity to display their horse racing skills. In contrast, the yak race was a funny show. The riders desperately urged their yaks forward, but the yaks would not hurry and moved in an



④ The steppe viewed from the Donden Quden Pagoda

⑤ A fashion show of Tibetan clothes (by Huang Luying)

easy gait. Some riders overdid it and were thrown to the ground.

When night fell, people sat around a bonfire, singing and dancing. There were acrobatic shows on the second day, a fashion show of ethnic costume on the third, exorcist dances on the fourth....



Sky Burial

Sky burial is said to have originated in India and the earliest Tibetan kings of 2,000 years ago returned to heaven by primitive sky burials. For various reasons, sky burial was later shrouded in mystery.

Before leaving Sêtar, I made a special trip to the sky burial terrace. Before noon, the wooden box with the corpse inside was taken to the prayer hall at Larong Temple. According to the local tradition, when a person dies, the body is tightly wrapped with cloth bandage in the form at birth, which is believed to be helpful for rebirth as a human in the next life.

At about 12 noon, the Canon of Powa was read, the purpose of which was to enable the soul of the dead to fly out

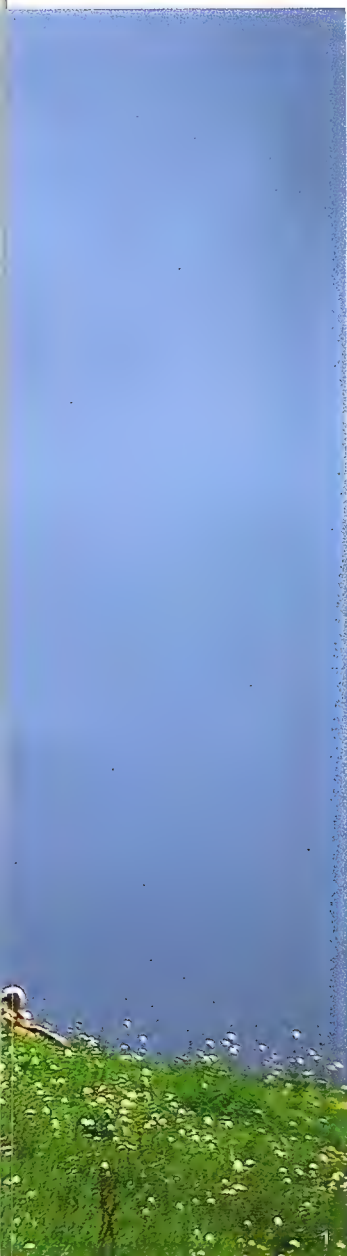
of the crown of the head. The wooden box was then taken to the sky burial terrace. I hurried there in a fine drizzle, covering a distance of three kilometres, but the funeral ceremony had already begun. A wisp of smoke curling up from the top of the white dagoba seemed to be a signal for the vultures, who, in a flock of 100, came and waited about 100 metres from the terrace, covering up a nearby mountain top.

There are accounts about sky burial given in the *Danjo* and other scriptures, which say that the vultures are not ordinary birds but are "sky-gliding mothers" invited from the Eight Great Forests of Corpses and 24 Sacred Sites.

Before the Master of Sky Burial had finished the dissection, the vultures became impatient. They dived down



4 A yurt for praying set up on the steppe



from the mountain top like gliders, spreading their two-metre-wide wings. Just before they touched down, they flapped their wings again and landed on the grass about 10 metres away from the master.

The Master of Sky Burial seemed to have given a signal with his hands and all the vultures rushed forward. In a world where many of the dead are buried in the ground, the sky burial, although appearing primitive, seems to be a very sensible choice. Tibetan Buddhism believes in the immortality of the soul and transmigration. Its view of life and death and its altruism are fully embodied in the sky burial.

The rain had stopped. One after another the vultures left the crowded scramble. It took only about 15 minutes for the body of the departed soul to disappear.

©



Tips for the Traveller:

Transport: There are two routes to Sêrtar:

1. From Chengdu head for Kangding, the seat of Garzê Prefecture. Cross over Zheduo Mountain and Xinduqiao, onto the northern Sichuan-Tibet Highway to Luhuo County, where a road branches off to Sêrtar. The entire distance is over 800 kilometres.
2. From Chengdu head for Barkam, the seat of Aba Prefecture, where a road leads to Zamtang County and then to Sêrtar. A long-distance bus runs from Chengdu to Sêrtar along this 680-kilometre route every other day.



Travel: There are so far no organised tours. Travellers can go on their own or contact the Photography Creative Centre set up last year by the county government. (Chengdu office: 45 Upper West Shuncheng Street, Chengdu. Tel: (28) 6754823. Representative: Li Dan.) The centre is organising two one-week photographic tours this year: one in late July and the other in early October, which charges about 1,600 yuan per person.

Lodging: Rooms at about 20 yuan per person.



Beijing's Bid to Host the 2008 Olympics: Opportunities and Variables

Article by Fan Yujie

Beijingers, sharp-tongued and with a good sense of humour, are good at coining phrases. The catch phrase that is doing the rounds in Beijing recently is "shen ao", meaning "applying to host the 2008 Olympic Games". The phrase stems from the Chinese Olympic Committee's January 6, 1999 decision to make a bid to host the 29th Olympic Games to be held in 2008, a bid that will become a major event in the early 21st-century.



The result of the International Olympic Committee's voting in Monte Carlo on September 24, 1993 is still fresh in everyone's mind: a 45:43 loss for Beijing against Sydney. Both cities were embroiled in a keenly contested competition. During the first three rounds of voting, Beijing looked like a sure-fire winner, and a large crowd had already gathered in the Chinese capital to celebrate. The crowd was in for a big surprise when the final round of voting was over and Sydney emerged as the winner.

Past Experience a Guide for the Future

Beijing's enthusiasm plummeted to an all-time low after its Monte Carlo debacle. Despite consolation and encouragement from the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Juan Antonio Samaranch, Beijing deliberately shunned the scramble for the 2004 Olympics.

The modern Olympic movement is a symbol of peaceful and friendly coexistence of the human race. That is why the bid to host the Olympic games has never failed to attract global attention. The Olympics, held by a different city at four-year intervals, provides the host city — and the host country as a whole — with an ideal opportunity to demonstrate its





comprehensive strength and foster its international image, increase its influence, and gain an impetus for its economic and cultural development. Because of this, more and more cities are joining the race.

Beijing has learned something from Athens, which lost its bid for the 1996 Olympics to Atlanta of the United States, only to win the right to host the 2004 games, thus enabling the games to return to its cradle of origin. Athens' victory once again vindicated the saying "where there is a will there is a way".

Who Is More Suitable: Beijing or Shanghai?

The IOC has never stated that a country can only have one city competing for the right to host the Olympics. According to the procedures, a city should first announce its desire to host the Olympics, and send in its application for the committee's consideration.

During the two decades since the adoption of the policy of reform and opening up to the outside world, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen have each come a long way in economic development. A year ago, when China made it clear that it wanted to host the 2008 Olympics, which city was to be slated as

host naturally became a hot topic.

During the Eighth National Games held in 1997 in Shanghai, Samaranch, who attended as a distinguished guest, said to President Jiang Zemin that if a Chinese city had the intention to make a bid to host the 2008 Olympics, he would offer vigorous support.

Will Beijing play host to the 2008 Olympics?



In the year that followed, there had been much talk about this topic. There was speculation that Shanghai had been chosen to bid for the games on China's behalf. Actually, the State Council held a conference in June 1998 to study the situation and feasibility of China's bid to host the 2008 games. Later, the government formed an ad hoc group to draft a feasibility report and make assessments of the candidates. For quite a few months, the key question was which city to choose, Beijing or Shanghai? According to some sources, when Beijing appeared the more likely choice, some vice-premiers were still thinking differently. Eventually the issue reached President Jiang Zemin, whose first reaction was, "Let me think about it." It is said that Shanghai did not want Jiang, the former Shanghai mayor, to relinquish Shanghai in favour of Beijing. Xu Kuangdi, the incumbent Shanghai mayor, went so far as to pester Wu Shaozu, director-general of the State Sports Administration, for an answer. Wu replied that he knew nothing. After autumn passed, Jia Qinglin, then mayor of Beijing, officially announced Beijing's decision to pursue the right to host the Olympics.

It does not matter which city may host the Olympics. What matters is that China's decision has showed its desire to play a bigger role in the international community. Just as Wu Shaozu said, Beijing's application to host the Olympics will undoubtedly bring East and West closer for the benefit of world peace.

What are Beijing's Chances?

There are still over two years to go before the IOC reaches its decision in September 2001. For the time being it is still hard to say which city will win the bid, and the situation will show subtle changes in the next couple of years, as the bidding cities endeavour to win.

The race for the right to host the Olympic games is open to all. Eleven cities had announced their decision to bid for the 2004 Olympics; the IOC finally chose five cities, and 107 committee members elected the host city after five rounds of voting. The other cities in the bid for the 2008 Olympic games are Buenos Aires, Paris, Toronto, Kuala Lumpur, Istanbul, Osaka, and Seville. Cairo will also send in its application. Cape Town, Rome, Stockholm, Rio de Janeiro, and Saint Petersburg, who lost their bids for the 2004 Olympics, will try once again. Germany, which will soon finish moving its capital and play a leading role in the European Union, is likely to put Berlin in the race for the 2008 Olympics.

These cities can be divided into three categories.

First, cities with the best overall conditions: Beijing, Osaka, Paris, Toronto, Rome and Berlin. Beijing compares unfavourably with the other cities in terms of both facilities and services, but could become the first choice given the fact that China has never hosted the Olympic Games. To have the Olympics held in China would embody the wide representation of the Olympic movement. The Olympic Games have been held in Japan, France, Canada, Italy and Germany. Paris, Rome and Berlin, in particular, have each once held the Olympic Games.

China is a developing country with an ancient civilisation. Beijing is a global historical and cultural city and a tourist city with modern facilities. The environment of Beijing has been vastly improved in recent years. Having hosted the Asian Games and many other world sports championships, Beijing already has a complete array of sports facilities for Olympic games, which only need slight improvements. Shanghai has spent a whopping 6 billion yuan on the Eighth National Games. Beijing will spend more than double that if it wins the right to host the



1. Wu Shaozu playing billiards
2. The Beijing National Olympic Centre

Olympic Games, and China is financially capable of providing the money needed.

Second, "dark horses": Cape Town, Istanbul, and Buenos Aires. The Olympic Games have never been held in Africa. For this reason, Cape Town has a fair chance of success if it applies once again. President Mandela had led a 100-strong delegation to canvass votes in Lausanne. Moreover, experts believe that Cape Town is the world's most beautiful city. Istanbul of Turkey is a city of four religions and 10 languages, and its people, who belong to 26 ethnic groups, have lived in an congenial atmosphere for the last 3,000 years. In addition, no city can embody the five rings of the Olympics better than Istanbul, which encompasses the world's continents in terms of culture, economy and politics. It is the sixth time Buenos Aires has pursued a bid to host the Olympic games, and if it wins the bid, this will mean the entry of the Olympics into South America for the first time in history.

Third, cities with a slim chance of success: Kuala Lumpur and Seville. The Olympic Games have already been held in two cities in Asia: Tokyo and Seoul. If Asia is allowed to hold the Olympics once again, China is a natural choice. Samaranch, being Spanish, has, during his 20-year tenure, succeeded in having the Olympic Games held in Barcelona. Not wanting to arouse suspicion, he will certainly avoid helping Seville in its bid.

Who's Say Counts?

The International Olympic Committee is a unique international organisation that is different from the United Nations and any other international organisation. Some say that it is more like a private club. The participation of the Pacific island nation Palau has increased the membership of the committee to 200. The 116 committee members (some of whom have just lost their positions in the recent scandal) are representatives of the International Olympic Committee to their own countries and not representatives of those countries's Olympic committees. Not every member country has a member on the committee, but some countries where sports are more developed have two or three members on it. It has been the normal practice for all the IOC members to vote to choose the host city seven years before the Olympics are held. To win these members' favour, therefore, has become a major task for all the bidding cities. There are three Chinese members on the IOC: He Zhenliang and Lu Shenrong of the mainland of China, and Wu Jingguo of Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee.

Shortly after Beijing decided to pursue the right to host the 2008 Olympics, the bribery of IOC members for the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics was exposed, causing a great stir in the sports world. Salt Lake City allegedly gave each of these members US\$70,000 in cash and a total of US\$400,000 worth of scholarship for children's





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education, gifts, real estate investments, tour allowances, and spending money with credit cards provided by the application committee. The exposure of this scandal naturally caused the downfall of these members. Most significantly, this will change the way the host city is chosen in the future.

Samaranch is expected to step down in autumn 2001, and the noise of a power struggle has already begun. It is expected that he may hold the deciding vote in the executive committee, or he will simply make the decision himself. The nine-member executive committee includes China's He Zhenliang, who enjoys a good personal relationship with the other members. The other members on the committee, including an American and an Australian, will certainly vote for Beijing because their respective countries had already won their own bids. Two other Asian members, one from the Republic of Korea and the other from India, are in favour of Beijing. The Belgian member has all along cherished fine feelings for China. One of the other two members is a Swiss who brought the Salt Lake City scandal to light, and the other a Canadian whom Samaranch is grooming as his successor. If Toronto does not come up against



Beijing in the final round of voting, the Canadian should follow Samaranch in supporting Beijing. The Swiss and another member, a Hungarian, are unknown factors. If Samaranch does change the way of choosing the host city, the situation would be rather favourable for Beijing.

If Samaranch's plans are not adopted, then probably a 15-member screening group, including eight IOC members, will take part in the voting.

Samaranch has said that he would like to see Beijing given a chance to host the Olympic Games during his tenure. Whether he has made any secret promises to Chinese leaders or not, it is high time for him to honour his promise, given China's

narrow defeat in its bid for the 2000 Olympic Games, and the subsequent suspicion that Sydney also "bought" the host opportunity. But if the original voting method is used, Beijing's chances of success are anybody's guess.



Translated by Ling Yuan

Wu Shaozu (left), director-general of the State Sports Administration, and IOC members, Wu Jingguo (middle) and He Zhenliang

Map of the People's Republic of China



We open this new column to introduce some basic knowledge about China, in the hope that we can help our readers, in one way or another, in their contact with China, either for reading and travel, or in doing business. We sincerely invite you to work together with us by informing us what you would like to know about China and what you want to see on this page. Your questions and suggestions in any form — letters, E-mail, fax, or telephone — will be appreciated.

Please send your messages to: Hong Kong China Tourism English Department, 24/F Westlands Centre, 20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong; Email: chinat@hkstar.com; Tel: (852) 2561 8001; Fax: 2561 8057, 2561 8196.

Administrative Divisions of the People's Republic of China

Under the direct administration of the Central Government, there are 34 provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities, and one special administrative region.

The four municipalities are: Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, and Chongqing.

The five autonomous regions include: the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region with Hohhot as its capital, the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region with Yinchuan as its capital, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region with Ürümqi as its capital, the Tibet Autonomous Region with Lhasa as its capital and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region with Nanning as its capital.

The provinces are: Heilongjiang, capital: Harbin; Jilin, capital: Changchun; Liaoning, capital: Shenyang; Hebei, capital: Shijiazhuang; Shandong, capital: Jinan; Shanxi, capital: Taiyuan; Shaanxi, capital: Xi'an; Gansu, capital: Lanzhou; Qinghai, capital: Xining; Sichuan, capital: Chengdu; Yunnan, capital: Kunming; Guizhou, capital: Guiyang; Hunan, capital: Changsha; Hubei, capital: Wuhan; Henan,

capital: Zhengzhou; Anhui, capital: Hefei; Jiangsu, capital: Nanjing; Zhejiang, capital: Hangzhou; Jiangxi, capital: Nanchang; Fujian, capital: Fuzhou; Guangdong, capital: Guangzhou; Hainan, capital: Haikou.

The special administrative region is the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

After Macau returns to the motherland on December 20, 1999, it will become another special administrative region of China.

Based on their geographical locations, these administrative divisions have been grouped into several major areas:

Northeast China: Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang;

North China: Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanxi and Inner Mongolia;

East China: Shandong, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Zhejiang, Anhui, Jiangxi and Fujian;

Central China: Henan, Hunan and Hubei;

Northwest China: Shaanxi, Ningxia, Gansu, Qinghai and Xinjiang;

Southwest China: Sichuan, Chongqing, Yunnan, Guizhou and Tibet;

South China: Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Hong Kong, and Macau.

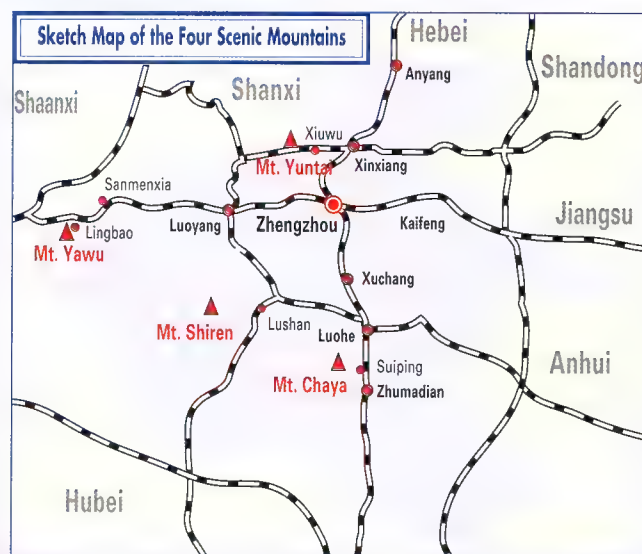
Below the level of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, which enjoy equal status, there are prefectures or districts; under these are counties, then townships, and finally villages.



FOUR SCENIC MOUNTAINS IN HENAN

Photos & article by You Xiang

The cities of Luoyang, Kaifeng and Anyang are three ancient capitals within the boundary of Henan Province in Central China. Also well-known as both scenic and historical attractions in Henan are the Shaolin Temple on Songshan Mountain, home of Chinese martial arts masters, and the artistic wonders of the Longmen Grottoes. I now introduce four mountains in Henan with very distinctive features which you may one day add to your itinerary on your Central China tour.



SHIREN MOUNTAIN: MAN-LIKE PEAKS

What first strikes you once you are near the Shiren (Stone Man) Mountain in Lushan County is the solitary peaks which have a close resemblance to the shape of man. The mountain is a typical high-altitude granite terrain and all of its 48 peaks, known as Forty-Eight Generals, are creations of the earth's movement. The Grand General Peak, which rises up abruptly from the ground more than 300 metres, truly looks like a gallant commander towering over his troops.

There are four of these rock pillars which resemble the "Writing Brush" peaks I have seen on Mount Huangshan. They spread out on each of the four directions and are described locally as the "Four Candles". The Little Penglai and Danshu (Red Book) peaks and four

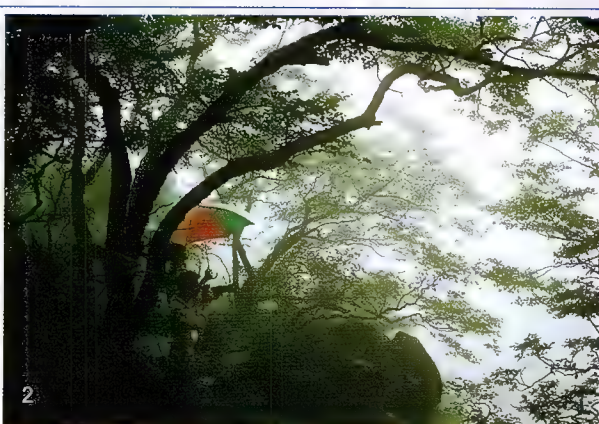
"viewing terraces" on the other hand reveal clear erosion of the granite rocks. Thus they appear particularly sheer.

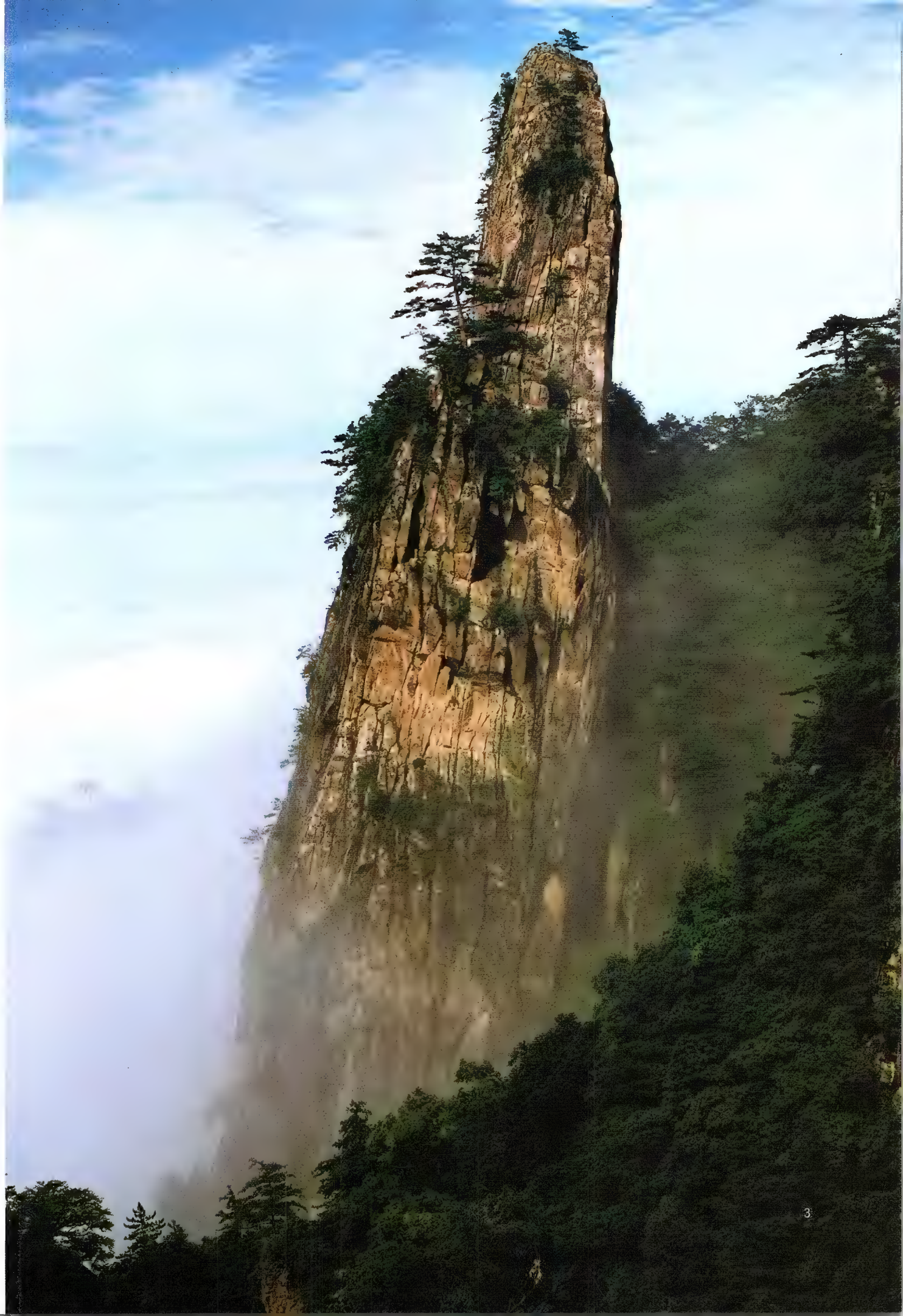
Climbing up from the valley, the sheer cliffs on both sides remind you of the Chinese proverb of the "frog in a well", in which the frog only has a limited view of the sky above. In the rock cracks and fault, there are obvious traces of erosion caused by water and ice. The Qianzhang Rock, Water Dripping Rock and Stone Wall as well as the deep valley are all manifestations of this. The Armour Peak and North and South basins reveal an impressive sight of white cliffs. Different degrees of rock erosion have left miraculously different marks on the mountain.

Looking closely, you will discover that, as a result of rock erosion,

there are flat caves on the cliffs covered by thick vine plants. These caves provide home and shelter to animals. The Antelope Cave is just one example.

At the "Horse Racing Court" below the Accompanying Immortal House, you see an impressive sight stretching for several kilometres.







Barren rocks had fallen amidst thunderstorms and floods, crashing down one against another, finally piling up in the valley or staying lodged on the mountain saddles.

The Swaying Rock in Mingshan Gully, a geomorphologic rocking stone, is unique on the Central Plains. Driven by curiosity, tourists often give it a hard push, and, despite its enormous size, the rock does sway slightly, but, of course, it never moves off its stand.

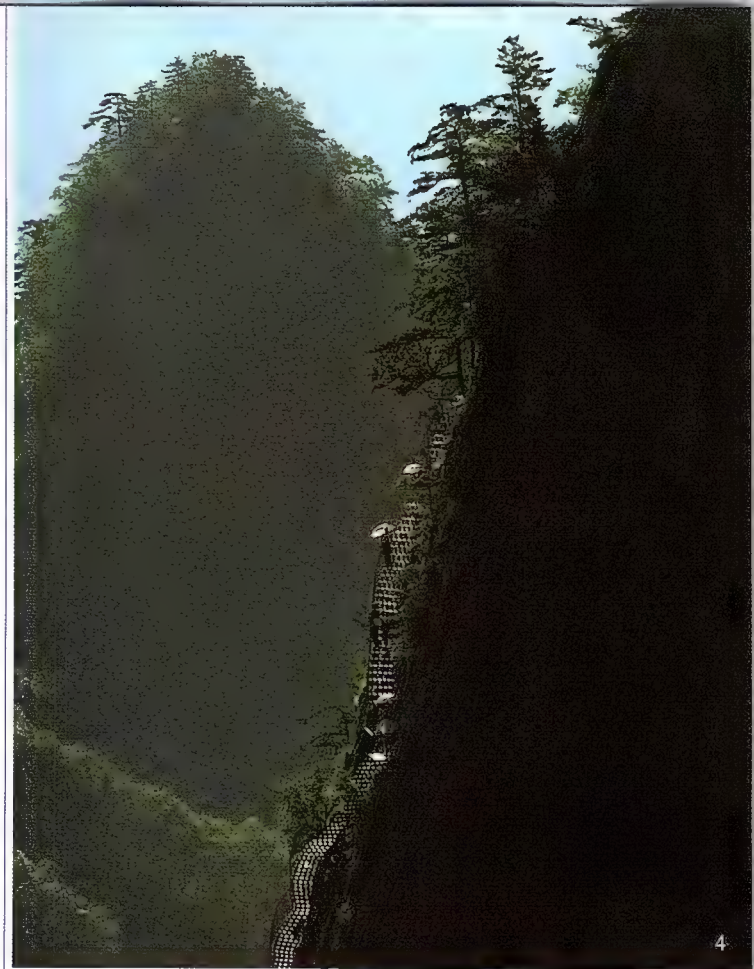
The Jade Emperor Summit, the pinnacle of Stone Man Mountain, is 2,153 metres high. All the service staff here are clad

in thick cotton-padded coats; this is because even in hot summer, the pinnacle remains so cool that ordinary jackets are not warm enough. This peak provides a panoramic view of the rolling peaks behind the Bijia (Pen-Holder) Mountain to the east, the peaks of Shiren and Immortal to the northwest, and large tracts of virgin forests.

Crossing the Black-Dragon Ridge and iron path of the Heavenly Stairs, you come to a granite slide more than 800 metres long. It zigzags through the forests without giving a clear clue to its end. Tourists simply sit on a cloth cushion, lift their feet and slide down along its meandering course. The quicker you go, the more excitement there is.

About 20 kilometres from Stone Man Mountain lies Zhaoping Lake. A leisure boat cruise or a speedboat tour on the expansive lake offer two different experiences. On the leisure boat, you will find people enjoying the view of green hills over a glass of wine or a chess game.

The speedboat tour takes you around the Gusao (Sisters-in-Law) Rock, a mid-lake islet covered with strange-looking rocks, and then eastward by the Xiushan Ridge to stop at the Jinsanhuan (Three Golden Ring) Island. Further eastward from this beautiful and peaceful island is the dim outline of Qiugong Town Island. At dusk, as the fiery evening glow on Zhaoping Lake gradually gives way to darkness, there is a meal of barbecued game meat and a waterside bonfire party on this island graced by cool and moist air. There is also the chance to enjoy the hot springs which are at a temperature of over 50°C. What a relaxing way to end your trip!



Previous page:

1. Stone-Man Mountain is an ideal destination to enjoy winter's snow scenery. (by Zhang Liucheng)
2. The huge stretches of virgin forests create a cool retreat from the summer heat. (by Zhang Liucheng)
3. Grand General Peak (by Zhang Liucheng)

This page:

1. The ingeniously-built granite slide thrills all.
2. The Gusao Rock Island on Zhaoping Lake
3. Tree-Climbing Monkey, a root sculpture
4. The Heavenly Stairs' iron pathway (by Zhang Liucheng)

Tips for the Traveller:

Transport: The Jiaozuo-Zhicheng Railway passes close to the Stone Man Mountain Scenic Area and State Highways 207 and 311 cut through it. The county seat of Lushan is linked by train with cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Wuhan. Direct buses from Lushan to the scenic area cost 15 yuan per person. There is a cable-way up the mountain.

Lodging: There are over a dozen hotels, hostels and mountain villas in Lushan and the scenic area with standard room rates ranging between 100 and 180 yuan. At the mountain top, Sanjie Villa charges 15 yuan per bed.

Local produce: These include walnuts, chestnuts, black fungi, mushrooms, pilose antlers and kiwifruits. Medicinal herbs range from ginseng, tuber of elevated gastrodia, stem of noble dendrobium, musk and eucommia bark.





CHAYA MOUNTAIN: A MINIATURE LANDSCAPE

Chaya Mountain is where the first rural People's Commune in China was set up in late 1950s. Today it is a scenic zone known as the Miniature Landscape in Central China. The mountain is 17 kilometres north of Zhumadian, a major stop on the Beijing-Guangzhou Railway.

The mountain covers an area of less than 20 square kilometres and its highest peak is 517 metres. It takes just four hours to complete the seven-kilometre tour route of the mountain.

Behind the huge solitary rock, Honey-Wax Peak, stands a large and slippery boulder carved with the characters meaning Hero Slope. In the spring of 1990, a Taiwanese tourist came here and was so impressed with the magnificence of the Honey-Wax Peak that he offered a reward to the first person to climb to its top. Many people tried but none conquered it. Finally, a farmer who often came to the site to pick medicinal herbs ascended barefooted, taking away the prize money. The three characters were then chiselled on the boulder.

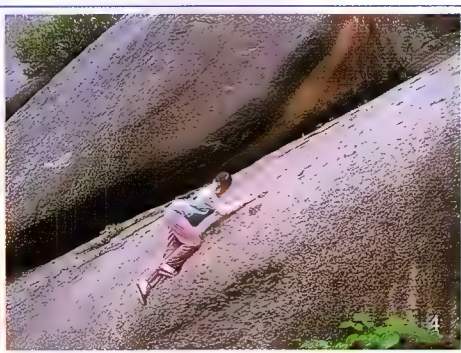
Chaya Mountain is distinguished with extraordinary boulders and a large number of caves. The Ten-Thousand People Cave is a good representative of the nine largest mountain caves. Inside there are smaller caves, one leading to another. In the labyrinth of alleyways inside the cave, the narrowest point only allows one person to pass through by crawling, while the spacious parts are as large as

auditoriums. It is no wonder that the cave was once used as army barracks during ancient times. During the War of Resistance against Japan in World War II, people from the vicinity hid themselves here. When stones are piled up on the triangle-shaped entrance from inside, the cave is invisible from the outside.

The last section of the climb up the mountain has no steps. People have to pick their way up using the rock crevices. Often a huge round boulder straddles two even larger ones, all undoubtedly legacies of mountain movements hundreds of millions of years ago.



1. Though small, Chaya Mountain draws visitors with its graceful peaks and extraordinary rocks.
2. An unusual boulder held up by two others
3. The Chaya Primary School inside the scenic zone
4. You need both strength and skill to ascend Hero Slope.

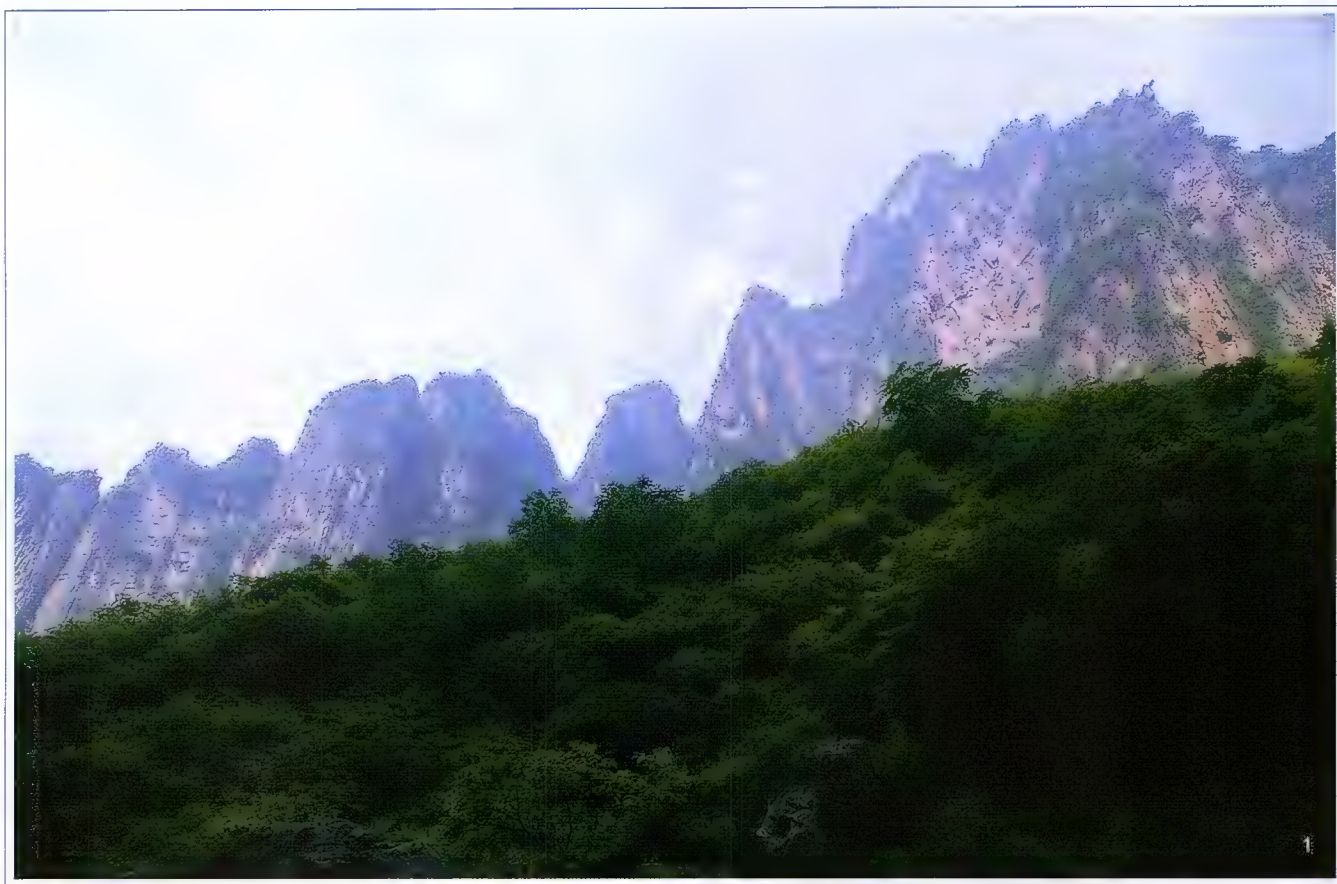


Tips for the Traveller:

Transport: Tourists coming by train from Zhengzhou and Wuhan should get off at Zhumadian Train Station and change to a shuttle bus to Suiping Town. There are regular minibuses between Suiping and Chaya Mountain; tickets are 10 yuan for the 20-minute ride.

Food and lodging: The Chaya Hotel charges 40 yuan a day and serves meals in its restaurant.

Chaya Mountain admission fee: 20 yuan.



YUNTAI MOUNTAIN: A WORLD OF COOLNESS

Alighting from the train at Xiuwu Station, I hired a taxi and headed towards Yuntai Mountain. On the way, I first went to Xiaozhai (Small

Camp) Gully, formerly called Xiaotan (Small Pool) Gully. It took its present name because during the late Sui and early Tang dynasties 1,400 years ago, Li Shimin, founder of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and Liu Wuzhou once built barracks and stationed their troops here.

The description that "Small Camp Gully has a waterfall every three steps and a pool every 10 steps" is close to reality. Spring waters from the upper reaches pass between peculiar rocks and form waterfalls and ponds one

after another. From the bottom of the valley, I followed the zigzagging path upwards, at times through rock crevices, by-passing huge rocks and crossing streams on half-submerged stones.

The path opens up at Yapu Pool. Here, two streams come down from a 20-metre height and merge to form a Y. As local people say the stream's natural mineral water is good for the health, tourists like to drink from the stream and fill up their water bottles.

Further upstream is the end of Small Camp Gully. Sheer cliffs rise up several hundred metres as if they had been cut by an axe. From the middle of the cliff surface, water cascades down into an expansive and calm green pool. Li Shimin is said to have watered his horse here before he fought his way to the Tang-dynasty throne.

The Yuntai Mountain Waterfall is at the end of the 2.5-kilometre-long Old Dragon Gully. The fall is 290 metres high, several times higher than the famous Huangguoshu Waterfall in Guizhou Province. Here, over towering cliffs, a 20-metre wide expanse of water throws its might into a pool, creating splashes and sending mist to all directions. In a breeze, visitors standing several metres away get wet. During the rainy season, floods loan the waterfall a roaring energy that scares visitors.

Wenpan Gully was created over a billion years ago when the earth's crust split, according to scientists. The drop from the highway

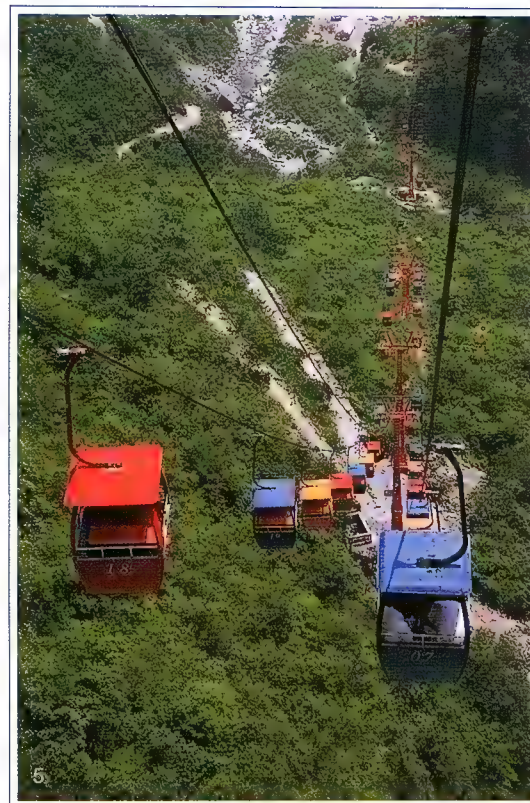


to the bottom of the valley is 80 metres. The gully of less than a kilometre long is only 5-6 metres wide at its narrowest point and 20 metres at its widest point. The mountain seems to have been sharply pierced into two by a magic hand. Down below was pool after pool of green waters where visitors can enjoy boating. I heard someone shouting: "It is really cold down here...." Wenpan Gully always remains cool as the sun never shines through to its bottom. During winter when the mountain turns to a freezing world, the valley remains green with vegetation.

Zhuyu Peak, 1,304 metres high, also known as Xiaobei Peak, is the pinnacle of the Yuntai Mountain. It is reported that Wang Wei, a famous Tang-dynasty poet, was so inspired by the scenery that he wrote the lines "Remembering Brothers in Shandong on the Ninth Day of the

Ninth Month" here. With the completion of the highway, visitors can take a bus half way up the mountain and ascend the peak with only an hour's walk.

After passing by the Cave of Medicine King and Kitchen Cave, you soon come to the 270-step staircase which was built during the reign of Ming-dynasty emperor Jiaqing (1522-66). Once on top of Zhuyu Peak, you can see peak after peak rolling into the distance. On a fine day, you can see even the Yellow River.

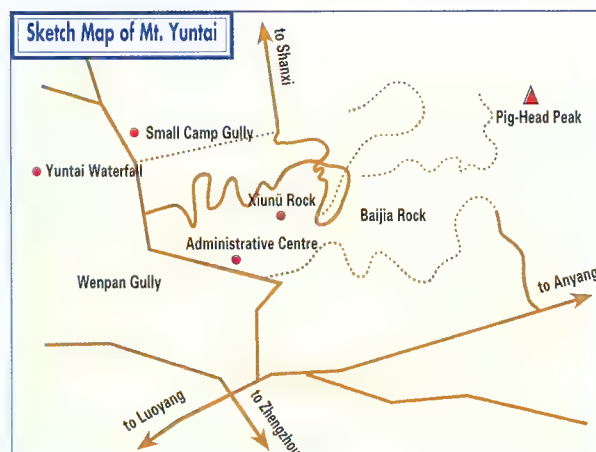


Tips for the Traveller:

Transport: Express trains running between Zhengzhou and Taiyuan, Beijing and Luoyang all go through Xiuwu which is 90 kilometres from Zhengzhou. The highway between Zhengzhou and Shanxi Province also passes through the area. Every day there are buses between Zhengzhou and Luoyang, and Xiuwu. Between Xiuwu and the scenic area there are minibus services.

Lodging: At the mountain foot, Yuntai Mountain Hotel charges 120 yuan for a standard room.

Food: Hotels in the scenic area have their own restaurants. Dozens of small restaurants at the mountain entrance parking lot offer a wide range of food.



1. Yuntai Mountain is both graceful and magnificent.
2. Getting cool at a waterfall
3. The "cracked" appearance of Wenpan Gully
4. Enjoying rowing in the Small Camp Gully
5. Pleasant breezes accompany the enjoyable cable-car ride up the mountain.



YAWU MOUNTAIN: A SACRED HOME OF TAOISM

Located in Lingbao County on the border area of Shanxi, Shaanxi and Henan provinces, Yawu Mountain is covered with thick vegetation. Only 40 kilometres from the famous Mount Huashan and with a similar height, Yawu is also a holy place for Taoism.

Early in the morning, Mr. Lai, president of Lingbao County Taoist Association, and his 18-year-old son, Miaoji, took me to the mountain. At the entrance of the mountain, we were greeted by a huge rock carved with four characters meaning "The Natural Law of Taoism". Mr. Lai explained: "The mountain is beautiful no matter how you look at it. And the trees look natural even when they grow sideways. Even the road was made to fit harmoniously in the natural environment."

Development at the mountain relies mainly on investments by Yuling Town which has prospered in recent years thanks to the gold mines. The mountain, however, is under the administration of the Taoist association.

Mingjing (Bright Mirror) Lake is a reservoir in the valley. Reflecting mountain shadows, the green lake is beautiful and peaceful. Lai told me: "Thanks to its unique geographical position, Yawu Mountain is home to plants found in both northern and southern China. The only drawback was that there were no fruit trees. We have now planted some so that in the future visitors can simply stretch out their hands to pick apples, pears, persimmons and walnuts."

We crossed a stone bridge and soon came to the Rock Scenic Zone where I saw huge rocks aptly named as Stone Eagle, Monkey House, Stone Gate and more. The most special one is named Demon-Exposing Mirror, which is a huge stone pillar rising abruptly up, with an oblique top so flat and shiny that it seems to have been polished.

In the temple at Yusuo (Jade-Lock) Pass on the mountain ridge people worship the Taoist gods and have their



futures read. Further ahead is Heavenly Jade Lock Lake, which is even larger than Mingjing Lake. Water pours out of the lake over the dam to create a roaring waterfall which cascades into the Black Dragon Pool. Giant salamanders can be seen in the lake.

The altitude increased after we passed by the Land God Temple. Fog thickened and drifted among the aged tall trees, alternately obscuring and enhancing the view. Suddenly wind blew away the fog and through the foliage I saw the Emperor Xuanwu Cave on the sheer cliffs. Mr. Lai said: "Taoism emphasises tranquillity and believes tranquillity generates boundless vitality. Emperor Xuanwu chose this site to practise austerity simply because he did not want to be disturbed."

Walking through a passageway among the trees, I could hear rain drops, but I could not see them and my clothes remained dry. Near dusk, we neared the top, panting for breath. By then, the rain had stopped. Viewing the West Peak, South Peak and other peaks in the gloomy weather, I was overwhelmed with mixed feelings. Going through the South Heavenly Gate, we came to Tianyi Palace, the main hall of Yawu's Taoist temple. Wind blew aside the silk curtain of the hall, revealing priests chanting scriptures and beating wooden bells.

That night, I shared a room at the temple with Mr. Lai, but I could not fall asleep. In the darkness, I could hear the sounds of wind and rain and the rustling of tree leaves.

Translated by F. Huang



1. The Yawu Mountain shrouded in mist.
2. Entrance to the Yawu Mountain
3. The characters meaning "The Natural Law of Taoism" at the mountain's entrance
4. The path leading to the East Peak seems to be full of danger.
5. Yawu Mountain is as precipitous as Mount Huashan.

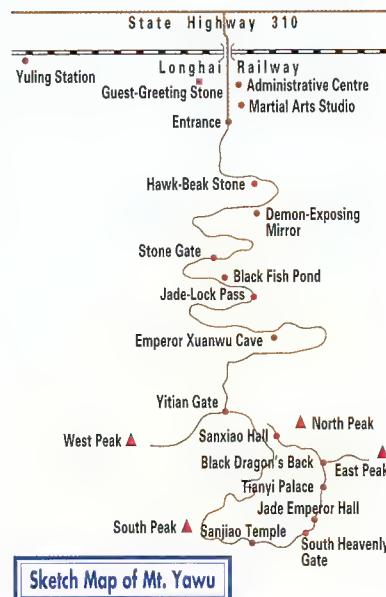
Tips for the Traveller:

Transport: The Lianyungang-Lanzhou Railway and the State Highway 310 pass by the scenic area.

Several trains running between Xi'an and Luoyang, Luoyang and Taiyuan stop at the Yuling Station. Frequent minibuses and motorbikes go from Yuling Station to the scenic area at a cost of 5 yuan.

Lodging: Yuling Town Hotel, 60 yuan for a standard room.

Yawu Mountain admission fee: 25 yuan per person.





Thousand-Year-Old Treasures of Buddhist Art

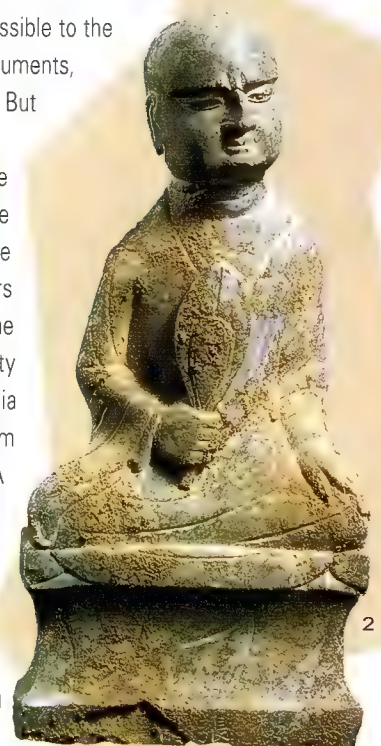
Photos & article by Hua Guan

At the turn of the century in 1999, the Museum of Chinese History in Beijing is planning a series of exhibitions for the 50th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The first one is a collection of more than 80 Buddhist sculptures unearthed at the Longxing Temple in Qingzhou, Shandong Province. The name of the exhibition is in the hand of Zhao Puchu, the 92-year-old chairman of the Chinese Buddhist Association. The stone sculptures, most of them more than 1,000 years old, were an important archaeological find in 1996. Their extremely high academic value has attracted attention both in China and abroad. Many specialists have praised them as "the acme of ancient Chinese sculptural art".

The archaeological discovery at the Longxing Temple in Qingzhou was found "by a stroke of luck". The Qingzhou Museum in the southwestern part of the town was built in the early 1980s. Its location had been chosen to be as close as possible to the presumed site of the ancient Longxing Temple, based on historical documents, in the hope that this could help archaeologists find traces of the temple. But all attempts were fruitless.

At daybreak on October 16, 1996, Wang Huaqing, curator of the Qingzhou Museum, went out like every other day for a walk in the vicinity of the museum. When he passed by a school playground where construction was going on, he found the soil moved by the bulldozers different from that in other spots. An opening revealed exactly where the soil looked different to that surrounding it. Professional sensitivity prompted him to stop the workmen. Quickly, he brought over Xia Mingcai, the deputy curator, to help with digging and the two of them found the buried Buddhist stone statues arranged in three layers. A preliminary examination confirmed it was the site of the ancient Longxing Temple, the site for which they had searched in vain for many years. This was followed by the full-scale excavation by the entire staff of the Qingzhou Museum.

News of the discovery spread quickly. On the second day of excavation, quite a number of antique dealers from Beijing, Guangzhou



1. A Buddha's head sculpted in stone, painted and gilded, Northern Wei
2. A sitting Arhat sculptured in stone, Northern Song

and other places appeared near the site. They asked questions and tried in every way possible to get near the excavation site. What was behind the dealers' enthusiasm? A few years ago, collecting Chinese Buddhist stone sculptures became a craze in Europe, the United States, Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan. A special exhibition, *Unusual Sculptures — Religious Collection*, was held in 1997 in Taiwan's Palace Museum. Among the 100 works on display at the exhibition, as many as 34 were from Qingzhou in Shandong Province, and most of these were statues unearthed at the Xingguo Temple in the southeastern part of Qingzhou and smuggled out of China.

In December 1989, a white marble statue of the Northern Qi Dynasty (550-577) was bought by a Japanese buyer in an auction at Sotheby, London, for £850,000. In recent years, quite a number of Buddhist statues were sold for several hundred thousand US dollars each at auctions in New York, London and Hong Kong. It was the priceless value and potential extravagant profits that compelled the antique dealers to rivet their covetous eyes on relics here and try every means possible to lay their hands on them.

To protect and ensure the safety of the cultural relics, the museum enlisted the help of the army and labourers in the excavation work. Xia, who supervised the work, maintained that if regular procedures were followed, that is, removal of a large area of soil layer by layer, photographing and making drawings of the statues, it would take a month. He worried that something might happen to the statues during the time they lay in the open. It was therefore decided to do the excavation section by section. Each section was to be cleared as soon as it

had been excavated. With the entire technical staff of the museum on the spot and policemen from the city to protect the site, work went on day and night for seven consecutive days before all the buried statues were brought to light.



3

The Historical City of Qingzhou

Why were there large temples like the Xingguo and Longxing in a small county town like Qingzhou, unknown to ordinary people? Why were so many fine and stunning Buddhist statues unearthed there? The answers are found in the history of Qingzhou.

Qingzhou, situated in central Shandong Peninsula, used to be known as Yidu. With Zibo to its west and Weifang to its east, it was an important water and overland communication pivot in ancient times. Qingzhou, or the city of Qing, was one of the nine most important cities in China. It was the political, economic, military and cultural centre of the State of Qi of the Warring



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States Period (475-221 B.C.), which occupied today's Shandong Province. It grew into an important town in eastern China during the time of the Eastern Han and Three Kingdoms dynasties (25-280).

While Buddhism flourished, Qingzhou was also a centre of Buddhist culture. In those days, the Longxing Temple was the temple of the abbot of Qingzhou. The date of construction of the Longxing Temple cannot yet be assessed. There are references in the *Illustrated Annals of Yidu County* compiled during the Guangxu reign of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), one of which says, "The Longxing Temple in the northwestern corner of Qingzhou had been a famous Buddhist establishment since the Song Dynasty (960-1279). When the city of Qifan was expanded during the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the temple site was buried underground."

A preliminary survey of the Longxing Temple site shows that it was one of considerable scale, extending 200 metres from north to south and 150 metres from east to west. The structures and their layout were in the

- 3. A standing stone Buddha, gilded and painted, Northern Qi
- 4. A statue in the process of being excavated



1. Detail of a Bodhisattva carved in stone, gilded and painted, Northern Qi
2. Persian figures painted on the shoulder of a statue, Northern Qi

pre-Tang-dynasty style. Three north-south axes ran through the temple. The eastern and central axes were each formed by three halls one behind another. The foundation of a main hall which has been cleared measures 30 metres from east to west and 25 metre from north to south. On the western axis were monks' living quarters and scripture storage towers. The buildings in the temple totalled nearly 10,000 square metres in floor space. This is so far the only site of a pre-Tang Buddhist temple found in China.

Records state that in the year 412 of the Eastern Jin Dynasty, Fa Xian, the famous Chinese high monk and translator of Buddhist scriptures, travelled westward to India to study Buddhism. He returned with a large number of Buddhist scriptures and stayed at the Longxing Temple for a whole year to sort out the scriptures and disseminate Buddhism. When the Japanese monk Sonochin came to China in 840 during the Tang Dynasty to study Buddhism, he also stayed at the Longxing Temple.

There is no conclusion yet on how the Buddhist sculptures in the Longxing Temple came to be destroyed or buried in a cellar. Scholars generally believe in two theories. One is "destruction by war". History books say that Qingzhou, due to its strategic importance, was repeatedly fought over by the Song and Jin armies in the 12th century. During the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), it was ravaged by war several times. The Longxing Temple and the Buddhist sculptures there could not have escaped such devastation. The other theory is "the banning of Buddhism". In history, four large-scale bans were imposed on Buddhism in China. These bans, which the Buddhists called "religious disasters", took place during the reigns of Emperor Taiwu of the Northern Wei Dynasty (386-534), Emperor Wudi of the Northern Zhou Dynasty (557-581), Emperor Wuzong of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and Emperor Shizong of the Later Zhou Dynasty (907-960) of the Five Dynasties period. Buddhist histories recount that temples were destroyed, statues smashed, scriptures burned and monks killed, and Buddhism as a religion was greatly enervated. History books also say that Emperor Huizong of the Northern Song Dynasty believed in Taoism and "In the first year of his reign (1111), 1,038 temples in the Eastern Capital were destroyed." Some specialists believe that this incident was the direct cause of the destruction of the Longxing Temple, and its statues.

During the excavation, it was found that the Buddhist statues were orderly and neatly arranged in three layers in the cellar. The sitting statues were placed in the erect position, the less damaged ones, in the middle, and the heads, along the side walls. There were marks of mats and traces of burned straw on the upper layer, showing that the statues had undergone a funeral. On the eastern side of the pit was a ramp for moving the statues into the pit. These all indicate that the statues were buried in a planned, systematic and organised way. It seems probable that devout Buddhist believers buried the damaged statues in fear of repeated destruction,

Glory of Buddhist Sculptural Art

In the last two years, specialists have worked non-stop restoring the damaged art treasures and carefully protecting their brilliant colours which have been concealed underground for 1,000 years. More than 80 of the treasures of Buddhist sculptural art have been restored to their original condition





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and publicly exhibited today. The unearthed statues are sculpted in seven different materials, including limestone, white marble, granite, black pottery and clay. The largest of the statues is 3.2 metres in height and the smallest, about 0.5 metres. There are images of Buddha, Bodhisattvas, Arhats and donors as well as tablets carved with images. Some of the statues bear proof of their dates of production, ranging from 529 to 1026.

Although many of the Buddhist statues are badly damaged, some broken into dozens of pieces and some having only parts of the body left, those that have been preserved show that they are works of superb sculpting skills. There are round sculptures, relief, high relief and pierced works. Most of the sculptures have preserved the brilliant colours in which they were painted or gilded. What are of most value are illustrations of scriptural stories painted in colour on the robes of the carved statues. The statues are sculpted in various poses and with different hand gestures and facial expressions. Some even wear a faint smile like ordinary people. The folds of the clothes are incised or carved in relief in clear and flowing lines. Some are decorated all over with golden or jade ornaments, giving the statues a gorgeous look.

A painted stone statue of a Buddha of the Northern Wei period is carved with elegant facial features and painted in a delicate warm colour, with the background carved with vivid and lifelike flying apsaras who appear ready to come to life at any moment. A statue of the Northern Qi period with the left arm and head missing has a bright red frame painted on the robe, in which are many figures painted in exquisite colour. What attracts special attention are three Persian figures with sunken eyes and high-bridged noses painted below the right shoulder. They have long black hair and moustaches, and are dressed in blue, green and yellow robes and high boots. One of the three figures is looking afar; the second is deep in thought and the third appears to be speaking in a whisper. Such statues have rarely been seen elsewhere. A thinking Bodhisattva of the Northern Qi period is sculptured in beautiful lines and appears almost human. Although its right hand and left arm are damaged, it displays a modern form and hazy beauty.

The discovery of these statues aids in the study of Chinese Buddhist art from the Northern Wei through the Sui and Tang dynasties (386-907), particularly the Eastern Wei and Northern Qi periods. The statues are valuable objects in the study of the dissemination and growth of Buddhism in China and the development of the art of sculpture and painting in ancient times. In particular, as most of the Buddhist statues have retained their brilliant colours, it has revised the misunderstanding that all Buddhist statues were unpainted.

Specialists and scholars of various fields of study all speak highly of the newly unearthed Buddhist sculptures.

Su Bai, a famous archaeologist, said, "These are the largest number of Buddhist sculptures ever unearthed in one place and the most exquisitely sculptured Buddhist images I have ever seen. The statues unearthed at Longxing Temple are special in artistic style and have a system of their own."



4



Location of Qingzhou

3. The Thinking Bodhisattva in the sitting position, carved in stone, gilded and painted, Northern Qi
4. Painted stone Buddha with flying apsaras, Northern Wei

Among all the national scenic resorts of China, Wulingyuan in Hunan Province is relatively young. The reserve, which embraces the Suoxi Gully and Tianzi Mountain nature reserves and the Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, is unique. With its natural charms and tranquillity largely intact, Wulingyuan never fails to win visitors' hearts at first sight.



Zhangjiajie's vista point commands a fine view.

The Fame of Zhangjiajie

The Beauty of Tianzi Mountain

The Cultural Heritage of Suoxi Gully

Photos & article by Guang Hui

Special Features:

Zhangjiajie, Tianzi Mountain and Suoxi Gully differ from each other in terms of scenery. The beauty of Tianzi lies in massive peaks that fill its ravines and glens with myriad fantastic shapes, while Suoxi Gully is known for its alpine lake, Baofeng. Zhangjiajie, for its part, fascinates with a chain of precipitous mountains surrounded by the ribbon-like Jinbian (Golden Whip) Stream. As the local saying goes, the famous Zhangjiajie is dwarfed by Tianzi

Mountain in terms of natural beauty, but Tianzi Mountain lacks the hospitality found in Suoxi Gully.

Transportation:

The city of Zhangjiajie (formerly Dayong) is the key to Wulingyuan. With the completion of its airport, Zhangjiajie has become conveniently accessible because it has flights to and from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Changsha. April 16, 1999 marked the inauguration of regular twice weekly flights between Hong Kong and Zhangjiajie. Between Changsha and Zhangjiajie, passenger trains and a dozen long-distance and tourist buses run daily. In Zhangjiajie, there are tourist buses to Zhangjiajie National Forest Park and Suoxiyu Scenic Resort. The buses stop midway for those who wave them down. Tickets are 10 yuan.

Routes and Expenses:

It takes about an hour by minibus to go from Zhangjiajie to Suoxi Valley where Huanglong (Yellow Dragon) Cave and Baofeng (Precious Peak) Lake are the two attractions. The Yellow Dragon Cave is a colossal subterranean limestone cave filled with icicle-like stalactites. In multi-hued lighting, the

stalactites are transformed into a fantasy world. Hotels and inns at Suoxi Gully have standard rooms at 100 to 200 yuan.

Two routes lead from Suoxi Gully to Tianzi Mountain: one is direct, while the other involves a bus ride first passing by two scenic spots, Shuiraosimen (Four Gates Surrounded by Water) and Shili (Five-Kilometre) Picture Gallery. Climbing Tianzi Mountain from Suoxi Gully is tiresome, and porters can carry your luggage for 20 yuan per piece. There are also litters for the elderly and the weak for about 150 yuan.

Tianzi Mountain, situated on a high tableland, is in turn magnificent, precipitous, exotic, graceful, and wild, and its scenery changes unpredictably with the season and the weather. It also offers panoramic views.

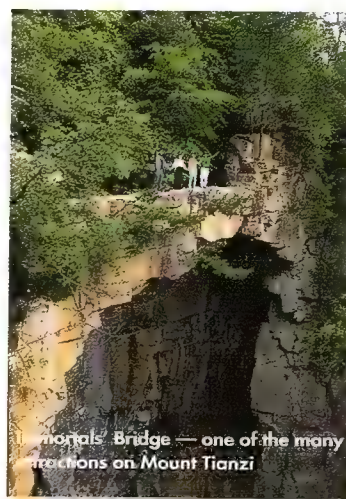
On a two-day tour of Tianzi Mountain, first you can visit such attractions as the South Heavenly Gate, the Heavenly Terrace, Moon Saddle, Warrior Breaking in the Horse and Imperial Writing-Brush Peak. You can stay overnight at Lanyuan Villa or Fengyun Hotel. Next day visit the Laowuchang (Old House Court) Scenic Resort and its Immortals' Bridge, fields in the air, and Celestial Soldiers' Gathering. Stay at the Shuiraosimen Hotel for the night.

The trip from Shuiraosimen to Zhangjiajie National Forest

Park offers the most picturesque scenery. Clear and transparent all year round, the Golden Whip Stream meanders through rocky mountains that soar to unbelievable



Golden Whip Stream meandering through rocky mountains



Immortals' Bridge — one of the many attractions on Mount Tianzi



Ascending the mountain top following an iron ladder



Spring in Suoxi Gully (by Li Shihui)

heights. It is a landscape picture gallery only nature is capable of creating. This route includes quite a few scenic spots, such as Jumping-Fish Pond, Meeting of Friends from Afar, and Golden Whip Rock.

Huangshi (Yellow Lion) Hamlet is a tableland propped up at an altitude of 1,200 metres by numerous sheer cliffs. A stone stairway leads up to this large vista point. On the route to Yellow Lion Hamlet are several dozen natural sights, such as Heavenly Book and Treasure Box, and One Pillar of the Southern Heaven. As the local saying goes, "No visit to Zhangjiajie is complete without seeing the Yellow Lion Hamlet."

In comparison with Tianzi Mountain, climbing Yellow Lion Hamlet is rather easy, so that visitors rarely need to stay the night, though there is a hotel. At the foot of the mountains in the Zhangjiajie Forest Park there are hotels and inns, with double room rates between 60 and 300 yuan.

Suggestions:

1. Suoxi Gully, Tianzi Mountain and Zhangjiajie are combined into the Wulingyuan National Scenic Resort. The 45-yuan ticket can be used for all three zones.
2. Tourist guides with name tags and certificates are

available in Tianzi Mountain Scenic Resort for 70 yuan a day; they should pay for their own food and lodging. The guide may also carry some of your luggage for a tip.

City Proper and Vicinity

Convenient bus transportation runs between Zhangjiajie Forest Park and the city of Zhangjiajie which has a complete array of facilities. A ticket costs 10 yuan. From the city take the train to the Mengdong River where you can drift on a bamboo raft, and on to Fenghuang, an ancient city in western Hunan Province. This highly recommended route combines sightseeing with colourful local customs.

Local Delicacies

Tianzi Mountain is famed for a special delicacy — fungus growing on cliff edges. Cliff fungus stewed with chicken raised on the mountain is an extremely tasty and highly nutritious local speciality. Check the price before ordering; it usually costs 80 to 100 yuan.

Translated by Ling Yuan



Mt. Tianzi in the golden morning rays



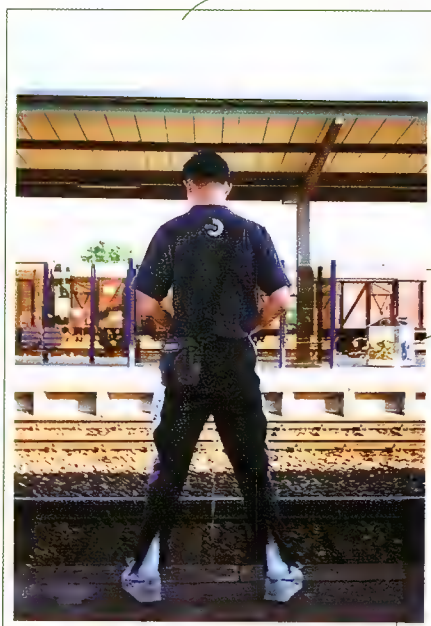
武陵源風景區示意圖
Sketch Map of Wulingyuan Scenic Area

Readers' Photographs

We have been receiving an increasing number of photo works by our readers. Some are scenic pictures depicting the beautiful landscapes of mountains, waters and deserts, others are records of their travels vividly reflecting the most interesting, refreshing and fascinating experiences of their trips.

Compared with professionals' efforts, these photos may show traces of a lack of skilled arrangement, or the need for additional light, or other problems caused by various conditions. Ironically, it may just be the reason why these photos are so real and vivid, and even full of humour.

Following are a few selected from our readers' contributions, which, we hope, will trigger your own creativity.



1 You might be frightened at your first glance of this photo — how could he do such a thing! But this is a "created" misunderstanding. The man is not doing what you think — instead, he is simply emptying his water container. (by Dong Wen)

Comments: Using and even creating misunderstanding is an important technique in taking humorous photos.

2 What first strikes your eyes in this picture? The three round objects, of course. Either by chance or through careful arrangement, it turned out to be a wonderful photo. (by Zhu Kaishun)

Comments: Observe carefully when you travel, and it's a good idea to put similar things together.



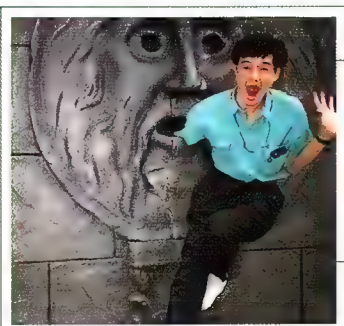
3 Despite the snow on her head and face, the woman who has just fallen down poses in the gesture of flying — she is simply too happy when she sees and touches the snow! (by Yan Mengying)

Comments: It's no longer necessary to say "cheese" on every one of your pictures. Very often, photos reflecting unexpected happenings, such as getting soaked in the rain, and falling down and getting muddy all over, stimulate your memory more.



4 Children are often the focus of interesting scenes. Here, the crying girl's wide-open mouth seems to be in imitation of the canon mouth. (by Chen Qiang)

Comments: Do not forget your camera on occasions like this with your children. The longer a picture of this kind has been kept, the more enjoyable it becomes.



5 It is acting, but it is lively and interesting. A picture like this serves well as a memory of your trip. (by Au Yun Shum)

Comments: Making good use of the available props and giving full play to your talents in acting and creating, you, too, can make it.

Techniques

Taking Photos of the Moon



The Great Wall in Moon Light by Leung Chi Wai

When you watch the moon, it seems very big. But in photos taken with a standard lens, it appears pitifully tiny. Long zooms, reflecting lenses and telescope zooms can turn out bigger images of the moon, and its size can be calculated with this formula: diameter of the moon in photo = focal length of lens or zoom divided by 110.

There are three methods to take a photo of the moon in the sky, with trees and other objects on the ground. The

first method is to use a zoom and choose a position far enough away from the ground objects. The second method is: first take the photo of the ground with a standard lens, then changing to a zoom, double expose the film to take the photo of the moon. In this way, you can adjust the moon's position in the picture. The third method is to take photos of the moon and the ground separately in two pictures, and then compose the two into one picture. The last method gives you more freedom for creativity. (Article by Zhong Ying)

Cycling Through the Sea of Death

Photos & article by Wu Wenju

Editor's note:

Two disabled people, Wu Wenju from Shanghai and Liu Yubao from Shanxi, set out from Yangquan in Shanxi on February 16, 1998 on a trip they called "Ending the

Century Bicycling Around China". They plan to travel over 30,000 kilometres through every province in the country, and most importantly, arrive in Macau on December 20, 1999 when the territory is returned to China, and in Taipei, Taiwan, in 2000. By the end of 1998, they had passed through 13 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities including Shanxi, Hebei, Tianjin, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Shandong, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Gansu, Xinjiang, Qinghai and Tibet, with 15,406 kilometres behind them. After this issue, we shall publish two more excerpts of their writings in separate issues: one about their night crossing of the Altun at Tashidaban; and the other about traversing the barren Tanggula Mountain to reach the "roof of the world" in Tibet.

To cross the Taklimakan Desert was the dream of my life. Though recently a Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps man had conquered it on motorbike and a Sichuan girl had walked through it, they did so with safety backup and support. On the contrary, we (my companion was Liu Yubao, a Shanxi native) made the trip without any such help. We relied entirely on our own strength to cover the 600 kilometres (including 444 kilometres of desert highway) against the odds, and despite scorching heat and sandstorms. The physical and psychological pressures were hard to imagine.

September 9, 1998 Wednesday

We got on the road before day-break as we wanted to reach Tahe Bridge before dark. Luntai County, 83 kilometres

from the bridge, was the only stop before the desert highway. Wind gained momentum and reached force 6 in the afternoon. Luckily, we were travelling with the wind and so we reached the bridge before 4 p.m. Drivers we met on the way kindly advised us to avoid the desert highway now.

The local hydro station hostel took us in without asking for payment. At supper time, the wind had subsided and I was tempted to enter the "Sea of Death" that very night. What I feared most was that daytime temperatures would be too high — surface temperatures could shoot up to 75 °C. Our bike tyres could easily explode in such heat but we only had two spares given to us by the Luntai County Sports Commission.

I had made up my mind. With a flashlight that we needed until the moon came up in the latter half of the night, we cycled towards the zero-point of the highway.

September 10, 1998 Thursday

We covered the 42 kilometres in four hours and arrived at the zero kilometre milestone at 2 a.m. I felt determined to unveil the mystery of this "Sea of Death", no matter what the risks.

In the moonlight, the sand dunes were dimly visible. It was very quiet with few vehicles driving by. With my poor eyesight I could just make out the road's white centre line and rode along it. Liu rode beside me, as protection, for at 37, he was 19 years younger than I and could see the vehicles better.

At 10 a.m., we came to the 144-kilometre point of the highway, and, looking around, I was overwhelmed by this great wonder. Building this highway on rolling, moving sand dunes had not been easy. To prevent sandstorms destroying the road, workers employed an indigenous method. They planted reed stalks in the sand over the 50 metres from the road, leaving about two inches of stalks sticking up to form a large chessboard pattern. This way, the sand cannot move no matter how strong the wind is. The next line of defence is a barrier wall of reed stalks 300 metres from the highway, and on its outer side a layer of nylon cloth is added. Furthermore, road maintenance workers keep a close watch of the main section. The road opened to traffic in 1996.

The first of my two worries on the desert highway was sandstorms. They were unpredictable in their fierceness and length. We were short of drinking water; our supply came



At the 291-kilometre point on the desert highway

entirely from donations by passing drivers. These drivers were moved by our bold challenge of the impossible. We tried our best to satisfy their requests by taking photos with them. Many had seen us on TV news programs. But in a sandstorm, few or no vehicles on the road meant no water supply. My second worry was the threat of overheated tyres. The bikes were our lifeline. We were gambling with nature. Fortunately, what I feared did not happen, perhaps because the gods were moved by our unrelenting effort. About an hour after we left the 144-kilometre point, a wind of force 5 to 6 blew from behind. Though our ears and mouths were filled with fine sand, it was safe to ride and, following the sand and driven by the wind, we rolled down the road.

It was exhausting to cycle in a sandstorm. We had to push our bikes up slopes, but going down, I did not dare go fast, for I always had the feeling that the wind might throw me off balance any time. Around 6 p.m. the wind calmed down. We stopped only when we reached the 2255 Oil Exploration Station at the 246-kilometre point. By then it was pitch dark. Totally exhausted, we decided to sleep in the desert. There was still lingering heat from the daytime so we did not feel the cold. Soon I heard Liu snoring loudly and admired his ability to fall asleep instantly. I could not, driven by a sense of vigilance. Drivers had warned us repeatedly about wolves in the desert. Though small in numbers, when hungry, they would attack any living thing, including humans. I turned the radio volume to its maximum and waved my flashlight all around, waiting anxiously for the moon. Night in the desert was so calm that it seemed suffocating. Occasionally a vehicle drove by. Today, I gained a real understanding of the true meaning of the saying, "Taking the sky as a quilt and earth as the bed." The moon finally rose....

September 11, 1998 Friday

We came to the 291-kilometre mark before 9 a.m. On the archway were these words: "Conquering the Sea of Death" and "There is only desolate desert but no meaningless life". We took pictures here as we prepared for the final sprint.

The hostel room rate was surprisingly high, beyond the reach of poor explorers like us. We placed our hope on the Tazhong Oilfield Front Command Base at the 295-kilometre point. At the base, we were warmly received by Gu Renzhang, director of the administrative office. Conditions here were good; the movable houses had air conditioners, TV sets and public shower rooms with hot water 24 hours a day.

We took a hot bath and slept for six full hours, replenishing

our energy and dispersing our fatigue. The hospitality and generosity of the oil workers at Tazhong deeply impressed me.

September 12, 1998 Saturday

We had to cover the remaining 229 kilometres in one go and be out of the desert before nightfall. The nearer to Minfeng, the more water would be found, and the greater the chance of wolves appearing at night. So at 3 a.m. in the moonlight, we were on the road again.

The wind gained force at 10 a.m. I prayed it would not get worse nor blow towards us. Fortunately, my prayer worked and we left the heart of the desert behind us. Large sand dunes became scarce and our speed rose to 18 kilometres an hour. Every 50 kilometres, we found ponds but the water was bitter and salty, impossible to swallow.

Now and then drivers stopped us for photos and thus we acquired drinking water. Particularly noteworthy was our encounter with a coach-load of Japanese tourists. They encircled us, staring as if we were from another planet. Through their interpreter, they learned the significance of our trip and one after another they signalled their admiration.

Despite the notorious name "Sea of Death", there are villages scattered in the Taklimakan Desert. I remember I once read a story of a Yunnan man who, after being labelled a counterrevolutionary during the "cultural revolution", fled here and lived for nearly 20 years in a village. He married and had children. Only in the late 1980s did he return to his original place at the invitation of the Yunnan government. At the 430-kilometre point, we came close to the Yatongguz Village 18 kilometres off the highway. Two clerks from Minfeng Grain Bureau on business in the village were escorted out to the highway on horseback. We learned that the village of about 300 villagers is almost completely cut off from the rest of the world. Living on animal husbandry, there is no road out and only the horses — their sole means of transportation — can find the way among moving sand dunes.

Near 9 p.m., we finally came to the 520-kilometre point. In front of a Uyghur restaurant, the armed police convoy from Korla greeted us. Although it was still 20 kilometres to Minfeng, we had confidence to get there, even if we had to push our bikes.

Translated by F. Huang



An oilfield truck driver enthusiastically posed with us.

The Longgui (Dragon-Returning) Hall in Daxi Town, Pinghe County of Fujian Province, enshrines a statue of the Dingguang (Light-Setting) Buddha. Various festive activities are held in the town on the fifth and sixth days of the first lunar month to celebrate this Buddha's birthday. At this time of the year, you can see many interesting local folk customs. There are the naked "auspicious" statues in the Longgui Hall, as well as the parade of local folks with masks and costumes, the dragon dance performed by hundreds of people, and the show of the Chaozhou opera. As well, there are many unique giant tortoises made with glutinous rice and brown sugar, which are truly an amazing sight.



Giving a final touch to a giant tortoise.

Giant Tortoises of Daxi

Photos & article by Xie Jianbo

These giant dough tortoises, which bear a vivid resemblance to reality, are used as sacrifices to the Buddha. One such tortoise takes four or five devoted people a whole day to make, partially by hand and partially by machine. Legend says that in the past, at the time of the Dingguang Buddha's birthday, a great tortoise would appear out of nowhere. Believed that it too had come to wish the Buddha longevity, the tortoise was taken by those fervent Buddhist devotees as a "divine tortoise".

Yet, one year, the tortoise failed to show up on the Buddha's birthday. Longing for its appearance, a local person made a glutinous rice tortoise and presented it to the Buddha. When the celebration was over, he burnt incense sticks in front of the Buddha and brought the tortoise home. The next year

evolved into a local tradition. Over the years, the tortoises have grown larger and larger, and the skills to make them have been continuously improving. Today, the tortoises made in Daxi have become extremely life-like.

In 1996, I went to Daxi to visit Mr. Chen, a senior master creator of the giant tortoises. When I arrived, the Chens were busy mixing brown sugar syrup with cooked glutinous rice to make the dough, while Mr. Chen was weighing the pieces of the dough for different parts of the tortoise. According to Chen, the most difficult job is to make the body. First, four flat round pancakes 60-80 centimetres in diameter are placed onto an inverted round-bottomed wicker basket to produce the initial shape of the shell. Although this sounds easy, in fact it is not. Hot dough is too soft to produce the right shape, but cooled dough hardens and does not stretch. Therefore, the key is to control the dough's temperature, which requires experience. Comparatively speaking, it is easier to make the head, legs, tail and shell.

In 1996, the largest tortoise presented in the Longgui Hall was made with 25 kilograms of glutinous rice and 30 kilograms of brown sugar. It was four kilograms heavier than the largest of the previous year. The tortoise of 93 centimetres long, 68 centimetres wide and about 30 centimetres high fully occupied a large square table. I thought it might be the largest of its kind in the world, yet Mr. Chen said there was one which weighed 78 kilograms. However, while the size of the tortoises grows every year, their numbers also increase. Many families are making more than one, using the same amount of material, so as to avoid the problems of transportation and presentation caused by the huge size and weight.



The yearly parade shows colourful folk customs.

the family made a larger glutinous rice tortoise and put it in Longgui Hall. Apparently the tortoise had brought good luck to the family over the year. Other families followed suit, and gradually, the practice

Hitchhiking in Tibet

Photos & article by Shen Haiqing



A herdsman's home at the foot of the Himalayas

harsh natural conditions there. Since I could not speak Tibetan, I made gestures requesting a look inside his tent. He guided us in and we saw a hole in the top, below which, at the centre, a stove fuelled by dried yak dung was burning. Carpets were laid around the stove. The wind was blowing into the tent from all sides. A woman, who carried a baby on her back, was surrounded by several other children. A younger woman was busy beside the stove, collecting well-worn pots and pans. Neither adults nor children had cheerful expressions but they all looked simple and honest.

The Model 212 Beijing Jeep we had hired in Lhasa broke down completely on our way to Ngari. In the previous 10 days, we had visited Pulan in the south, Toling Monastery and the ruins of Guge Kingdom in Zanda County in the west, but now we could not find any lift to go back to Lhasa. Finally, probably thanks to the protection of the holy Himalayas, we hitched a ride from an American tourist group which came here to make a film. The American cameramen were in two luxury Toyota jeeps, but we rode in their Dongfeng supply truck loaded with petrol tanks, tents, sleeping bags, food and water. The truck followed the No. 219 State Highway from west to east between the Gangdisê and the Himalayas. In fact, the highway was in a very bad condition, and some sections were almost impassable. Sitting on their supplies, we endured continuous jostling and inhaled the dust kicked up by the truck.

At dusk, the Americans decided to stop by the roadside to rest and prepare for filming the next morning. We did not have tents nor sleeping bags, and had to borrow down coats from them and curl up in a tight ball to keep warm overnight in the truck. At 4,000 metres above sea level, it became very cold after sunset.

Not far from our camp was a tent, the home of a Tibetan family, and a flock of sheep. Cold and bored, we walked over to the tent hoping to find a fire to warm ourselves and see the real life of the Tibetan herdsmen. When we came close, a man came out, and after looking at my three cameras, made gestures asking for cigarettes. I lit one and handed it to him, and then had a close look at him. He was a thin middle-aged man, with a vigorous expression. My first impression was that he is very different from my imagination of Tibetan herdsmen, which is probably due to the fact that he had little contact with outsiders, as well as the

There were only a few ordinary utensils inside the home, and the sheep outside were their only property. In the moonlight, the sheep automatically lined up in two rows, with horns touching and stood motionless and soundless, like sculptures. The woman went out to milk the waiting sheep. The Tibetan plateau had its own rhythm and order.

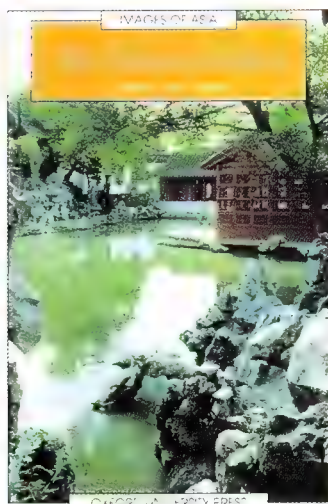
We warmed ourselves beside the stove, and chatted in sign language and took photos. The atmosphere became lively and smiles came to their faces. When the woman returned with the milk, I indicated that I wanted a drink. She immediately handed me the pot, still warm and with a few blades of grass floating on the top. It tasted so sweet and pleasant. It was the first time I tasted such fresh and unpolluted milk in my life. In return I gave the remaining half-pack of Hongtashan cigarettes and matches to the herdsman. We said goodbye to the family and returned to the truck to suffer through the coldness of the night.

The next morning, we got up to take photos. The herdsman's family also came to have a look, but without a common language, we could not really talk much. Soon we left, together with the film crew. After four days of travel eastwards on the truck from Ali, we finally arrived at the crossroads of State Highways 219 and 318 in Lhazê County. There we caught a minibus, taking another day to reach Lhasa. This was the most difficult time during several of my Tibetan travels. Still, I often fondly recall my meeting with the herdsman and his family. They typify the quintessential characteristics of the Tibetan people — hard working and indomitable spirit.

Translated by M.Q.



The woman of the "house"



The Chinese Garden

Joseph Cho Wang

Oxford University Press,

1998, 72 pages

Price: HK\$85

(about US\$11.50)

Both of these pocket-sized books are good value in their own way. The author of *The Chinese Garden* says "it is a small book about a big subject". Indeed, classical gardens are found all over China, and have been around for thousands of years in various forms. Gardens in China are not merely gardens, but are an art form that embraces culture as well. While *The Chinese Garden* explains the aesthetic principles and practical concerns of the gardens' designers, the photo-album, *Suzhou*, illustrates the most typical of the Chinese gardens.

Gardens originally started out as hunting-grounds for imperial pleasure over 3,000 years ago. Gradually they acquired buildings and man-made elements replicating scenic spots that were imperial favourites. Around the 4th century, the intelligentsia popularised the "mountain and water" models imitating natural landscapes, and in the 6th century gardens became grander in scale. It was in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) when China was in a period of great peace and prosperity that both imperial and private gardens flourished. In Chang'an, today's Xi'an and the capital at that time, there were eight sizeable imperial gardens, one of which was larger than the city itself.

Landscape gardens remained the preferred style over the next 600 years. The rulers of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), however, built splendidly and lavishly, and easily surpassed their predecessors' designs. In addition, they built summer palaces and pleasure parks.

Private gardens grew from a striving for spiritual freedom, and were used and constructed by scholars for moral and intellectual cultivation. Taoism and Confucianism have also both had an influence on the styles and purpose of classical gardens.

The Chinese Garden includes ample quotes and historical

background information that help the reader understand the passions behind and the spirit of China's gardens. There are also details on garden design and the garden as art. The book is written in a lively style and backed up by colour and black-and-white pictures. The latter part of the book, however, delves into landscape painting and its relationship with gardens which distracts the reader somewhat from the reality of the gardens.

In contrast, *Suzhou* is a pictorial book of gardens and lovely scenes of this 2,500-year-old city. During the Ming and Qing dynasties there were about 200 private gardens in Suzhou, a city which continually attracted numerous high officials, scholars and rich merchants with its beautiful scenery, abundant resources and the Grand Canal. Many people built gardens and villas there, either for social activities or for their own retirement. This "Garden City" still has a dozen gardens open to the public.

This book has 60-odd pages of very good pictures, each with a short description in English and Chinese. About 20 pages are devoted to the most famous of the former private gardens, such as the Fisherman's Garden, constructed in the 12th century and renovated in the 18th century. There is also the Lingering Garden with its lake rocks eroded by water, and the Pleasure Garden, the last garden of the Qing which embodies many of the features of earlier gardens. Each garden represents different architectural styles from the Song (960-1279) through to the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), but without exception, they all successfully combine water, buildings, winding corridors, and rocks or "mountains" into an aesthetically pleasing and contemplative atmosphere.

Suzhou is most useful as an introduction to the city and its gardens, or as a pictorial souvenir of places visited on a tour there.

Reviewed by Patricia Hutton

Suzhou

Foreign Languages

Press, 1998, 72 pages

Price: 39 yuan

(about US\$4.70)



On the highland in the Northwest, near the first bend of the roaring Yellow River, there is a broad expanse of lush grassland



*adorned with miscellaneous flowers. This is **southern Gansu Province**, the area situated to the south of its capital, Lanzhou. In summer, this part of the province enjoys an extraordinarily pleasant "autumn" weather. Camping on the verdant grassland for a couple of days is an exceptional experience for city-dwellers.*

***Linxia Prefecture**, also in southern Gansu, is again a world of flowers. In fact, flowers have become an indispensable part of Linxia people's life: they are found on walls, in courtyards, in foods, and even in lyrics.*



***Chengdu, Sichuan**, is a food-lovers' paradise, particularly to those who are fond of hot and spicy food. Sichuan cuisine is renowned for its abundant choices. Now, there are restaurants selling newly-invented Sichuan dishes. Even salmon is cooked in Sichuan style! Teahouses in Chengdu*

have a remarkable style all of their own. Customers can sip tea leisurely all day long while chatting with friends and munching on snacks.

*We will also provide you with plenty of choices of **summer resorts** in China to escape from the heat. Up the mountain, on the plateau, deep in the forest, or even in Southern China's Guangdong and Fujian — surely one of these will become your favourite place for a cool summer holiday.*



Hotels in Zhejiang

City	Name	Star	Address	Postcode	Tel	Fax
Hangzhou	Shangri-La Hotel	*****	78 Beishan Rd.	310007	(571) 7077951	(571) 7996637
	Dragon Hotel	****	7 Shuguang Rd.	310007	(571) 7998833	(571) 7998090
	Wanghu Hotel	****	2 Huancheng Rd. W.	310006	(571) 7071024	(571) 7071350
	Lily Hotel	***	45 Shuguang Rd.	310007	(571) 7991188	(571) 7991166
	Overseas Chinese Hotel	***	15 Hubin Rd.	310006	(571) 7074401	(571) 7074978
	Xinqiao Hotel	***	176 Jiefang Rd.	310001	(571) 7076688	(571) 7022768
	Friendship Hotel	***	53 Pinghai Rd.	310006	(571) 7077888	(571) 7073842
	Zhongshan Hotel	***	1 Pinghai Rd.	310006	(571) 7068899	(571) 7022403
	Zhejiang Guest House	***	68 Santaishan Rd.	310007	(571) 7977988	(571) 7971904
	International Mansion	***	353 Tiychang Rd.	310006	(571) 5156224	(571) 5174201
	Hangzhou Building	***	1 Wulin Square	310006	(571) 5153911	(571) 5170062
	Huagang Hotel	***	4 Xishan Rd.	310007	(571) 7998899	(571) 7962481
	Xihu State Hotel		7 Xishan Rd.	310007	(571) 7979889	(571) 7972348
	Xizi Hotel		37 Nanshan Rd.	310007	(571) 7071614	(571) 7063537
Ningbo	East Seaport Hotel	****	52 Caihong Rd. N.	315040	(574) 7373188	(574) 7333646
	New Garden Hotel	****	188 Jiefang Rd. S.	315000	(574) 7321818	(574) 7294439
	Asia Garden Hotel	***	7 Mayuan Rd.	315000	(574) 7116888	(574) 7112138
	Overseas Chinese Hotel	***	130 Liuting St.	315010	(574) 7293175	(574) 7294790
	Ningbo Hotel	***	65 Mayuan Rd.	315010	(574) 7321688	(574) 7321618
	Yonggang Hotel	***	105 Baizhang Rd.	315040	(574) 7334621	(574) 7333626
Jinhua	Lanjiang Mansion	***	29 Renmin Rd. N., Lanxi	321100	(579) 8825800	(579) 8825896
	Jinhua Guest House	***	1 Shuangqian Rd. W.	314000	(579) 2372811	(579) 2372713
Wenzhou	Chaoyang Mountain Villa	***	Yandong Mountain	325614	(577) 2243484	(577) 2243463
	Ouchang Hotel	***	71 Xueshan Rd.	325000	(577) 8528888	(577) 8528777
	Wenzhou Hotel	***	Renmin Rd.	325000	(577) 8252525	(577) 8251100
	Overseas Chinese Hotel	***	17 Xinhe St.	325000	(577) 8223911	(577) 8229656
Lishui	Chuzhou Hotel		267 Zhongshan St.	323000	(578) 2132280	
	Liancheng Hotel		5-2 Deng St.	323000	(578) 2132799	
Shaoxing	Shaoxing Hotel	***	9 Huanshan Rd.	312000	(575) 5155888	(575) 5155565

Flights to and from Wenzhou

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Beijing — Wenzhou	1 2 3 4 6	09:00	11:20	CA1547
	2 3 5 6	09:15	11:40	MU7116
	7	09:15	11:45	MU7116
	3 6	11:20	13:40	G8663
	1 4	11:50	14:00	MU7116
	7	12:00	13:45	F65806
	6	12:55	15:05	CJ8513
	2	12:55	15:10	CJ8513
	6	13:00	15:10	MU5152
	4 6	13:40	16:15	H4224
	2 5 7	14:30	16:55	X2310
	1	14:35	17:15	WH2514
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:40	18:00	CA1539
	3	16:00	18:20	X2195
Wenzhou — Beijing	1 4	08:50	11:10	MU7115
	7	09:00	11:00	F65805
	6	10:00	12:10	MU5151
	4 6	10:45	13:10	H4223
	2 5 7	11:15	13:45	X2309
	1	11:25	13:45	WH2513
	1 2 3 4 6	12:05	14:20	CA1548
	7	12:30	14:30	MU7115
	2 3 5 6	12:30	14:30	MU7115
	3 6	14:10	16:30	G8664
	2	15:50	18:10	CJ8514
	6	16:00	18:10	CJ8514
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:40	20:55	CA1540
	3	19:00	21:20	X2196
Hong Kong — Wenzhou	1 4 6	17:05	18:30	MU5028
Wenzhou — Hong Kong	1 4 6	14:25	16:00	MU5027
Nanjing — Wenzhou	1 4	08:15	09:20	MU5583
	6	08:25	09:20	MU5583
	2 6	08:45	09:45	WH2827
	3 6	10:35	13:55	SC793
	7	10:45	12:10	MU7509
	2 5	14:35	16:10	F65922
Wenzhou — Nanjing	2 5	19:00	20:20	MU7706
	2 5	12:15	13:55	F65921
	2 5	12:25	13:40	MU7705
	7	13:00	14:05	MU7510
	3 6	14:30	17:30	SC794
	1 4	15:05	16:10	MU5584
Shanghai — Wenzhou	6	15:45	16:50	MU5584
	2 6	18:00	19:10	WH2828
	2 4 7	08:10	09:10	FM517
	1 2 4 5 6 7	09:35	10:25	MU5579
	3	09:35	10:25	MU5579
	4 6 7	12:15	13:00	X2215
Wenzhou — Shanghai	2 6	16:05	17:05	WH2828
	1 3 5 6	17:55	18:45	FM517
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:35	19:35	MU5591
	2 6	10:55	12:05	WH2827
	1 2 4 5 6 7	11:05	11:55	MU5580
	3	11:05	12:00	MU5580
Wenzhou — Beijing	4 6 7	13:40	14:40	X2216
	1 3 5 6	19:30	20:25	FM516
	2 4 7	19:40	20:35	FM516
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	20:25	21:25	MU5592

*For reference only.

Flights to and from Chengdu

Route	Days	Dep.	Arr.	Flight
Guangzhou — Chengdu	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:10	10:10	CZ3403
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:50	12:10	SZ4304
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:05	12:10	3U332
	1 2 3 4 5 7	12:45	14:45	SZ4310
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:15	16:20	CZ3413
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:45	16:45	SZ4302
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:35	17:45	3U336
	1 4 7	17:10	20:00	SZ4308
	3 6	18:30	20:40	SZ4306
	2 5	18:30	21:30	SZ4308
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	19:20	21:30	SZ4382
Chengdu — Guangzhou	3 6	07:15	08:45	SZ4305
	1 4 7	07:15	09:55	SZ4307
	2 5	07:15	10:05	SZ4307
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:30	09:25	3U331
	1 2 3 4 5 7	10:10	11:55	SZ4309
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:50	12:50	CZ3404
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:05	13:40	SZ4301
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	13:00	14:55	3U335
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:10	18:10	SZ4381
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:45	18:45	SZ4303
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17:00	19:00	CZ3414
Hong Kong — Chengdu	3 6 7	11:25	13:50	SZ412
	1 4	17:35	19:55	SZ412
	2 5	19:00	21:25	SZ412
Chengdu — Hong Kong	3 6 7	08:15	10:25	SZ411
	1 4	14:25	16:35	SZ411
	2 5	15:50	18:00	SZ411
Shanghai — Chengdu	7	08:20	10:50	FM541
	1 2 3 4 5 6	08:40	11:30	FM541
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	10:40	13:20	SZ4516
	1 2 4 5 6	15:10	17:45	SZ4540
	7	16:25	19:00	MU5403
	7	16:45	20:35	SZ4530
	1 2 3 5	16:50	19:20	MU5403
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17:00	19:30	3U562
	4 6	17:10	19:30	MU5403
	3	17:10	21:00	SZ4530
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:50	21:30	SZ4502
Chengdu — Shanghai	1 2 4 5 6	07:50	10:05	SZ4539
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:00	09:45	3U561
	7	08:30	12:05	SZ4529
	3	08:30	12:05	SZ4529
	7	11:30	13:55	FM542
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:00	13:55	SZ4515
	1 2 3 4 5 6	12:20	14:35	FM542
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:35	17:40	SZ4501
	7	19:40	21:40	MU5404
	1 2 3 5	20:00	22:10	MU5404
	4 6	20:00	22:20	MU5404
Zhengzhou — Chengdu	2 4 7	09:45	11:20	SZ4710
	1 2 4 6	12:55	14:30	CZ3471
	1 5	16:45	18:25	3U612
	2 3 6 7	17:00	18:50	Z2375
Chengdu — Zhengzhou	2 4 7	07:40	09:05	SZ4709
	1 5	08:30	10:05	3U611
	1 2 4 6	18:40	20:15	CZ3472
	2 3 6 7	19:30	21:10	Z2376

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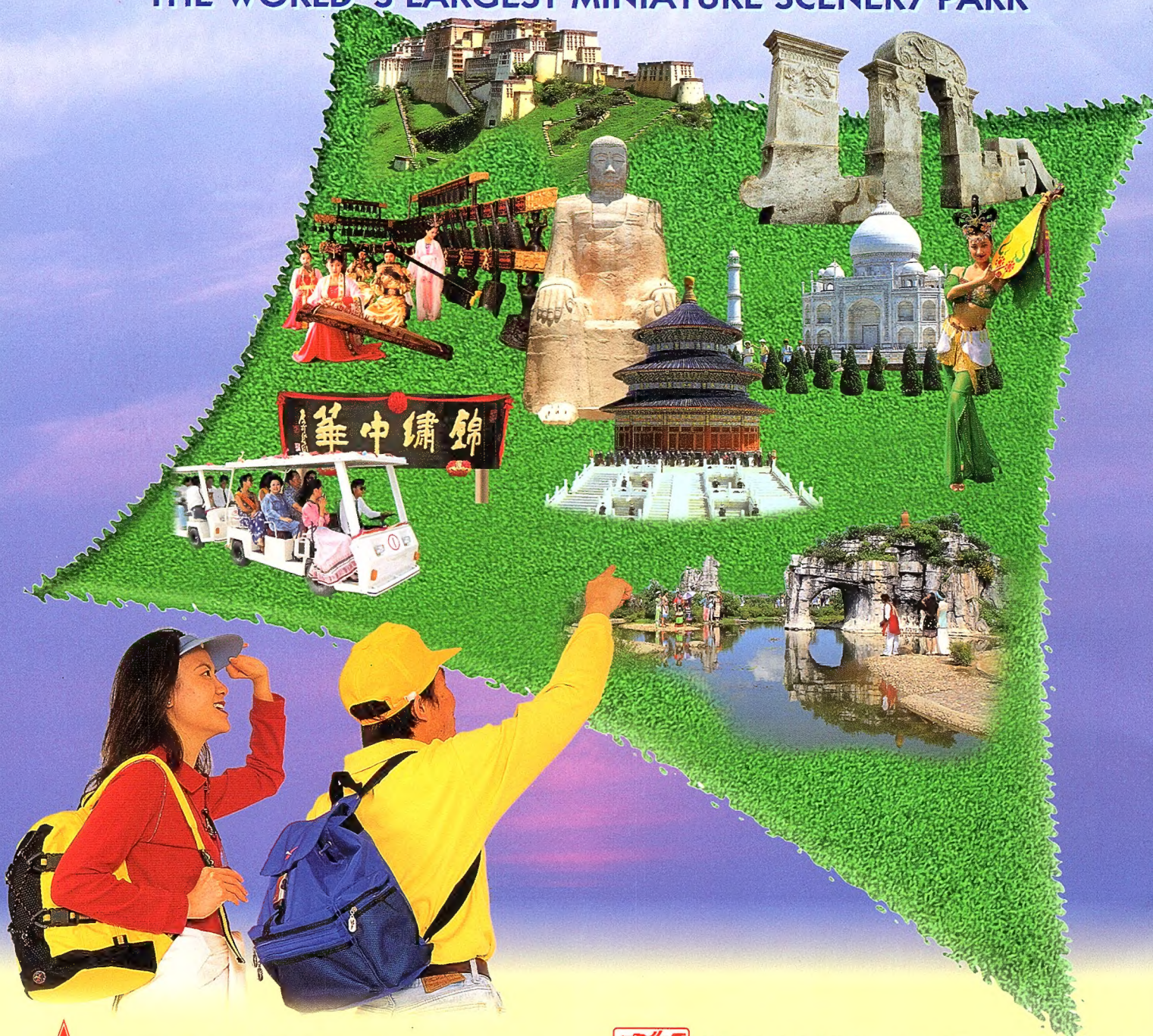
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